Hafa Adail Salpan Iribune

NMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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MONDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2019

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New USCIS regulations delayed

By JON PEREZ jon_perez@saipantribune.com

NMI employers and workers remain in the dark on the new guidelines that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services would be implementing based on the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018.

USCIS has yet to issue the guidelines, which Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-

MP) said should have been released last month. "Neither USCIS nor the [U.S.] Department of Labor has issued the regulations for [the NMI] U.S. Workforce Act."

"The Act called for regulations to be issued within 180 days. In other words, by Jan.

'Smart, effective border security'

By JON PEREZ

REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said the Democratic Party-led U.S. House of Representatives looks forward to the bipartisan conference committee that would work on legislation that values all workers while keeping the border of the country protected.

Sablan is an independent member of the House but caucuses with the Democrats.

"House Democrats look forward to working in a bipartisan, bicameral way to

See SMART on Page 4

20. So, they [USCIS] are late," added Sablan.

President Donald Trump signed the then-H.R. 5956 into law on July 24 last year.

Saipan Tribune asked US-CIS last week for an update on the needed regulations but it has yet to respond as of press time.

Saipan Tribune also reached

See USCIS on Page 4

Last day for Yutu debris pickup

By ERWIN ENCINARES

REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office confirmed over the weekend that their last day for Super Typhoon Yutu debris pickup would be next Sunday, Feb. 10.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Saipan Mayor's Office previously agreed to extend up to Feb. 10, 2019, or next Sunday, the final day for picking up Super Typhoon Yutu debris. Beyond that date, according to an official from the mayor's office, Super Typhoon Yutu debris pickup will the responsibility of the homeowner.

According to a flyer from the Saipan Mayor's Office, in order to have debris picked up by the mayor's office, it

See YUTU on Page 4





Death papers sought for man who went missing at Grotto By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Administration employee who to declare him dead.

went missing after scuba diving The wife of a Federal Aviation petition asking the Superior Court

with three other persons at the of Renton, Washington, asked the Jones, on Nov. 18, 2018. Grotto last November has filed a court to direct the CNMI Registrar to prepare a death certificate counsel Rexford C. Kosack, asked establishing a presumption of

Madelyn Ann Jones, a resident death for her husband, John J.

Madelyn Ann Jones through

See DEATH on Page 4

INSIDE



NATION

Resisting calls for his resignation, Virginia's governor pledges to remain in office.

PAGE 15



Bangladesh's central bank has filed a lawsuit in a New York court against a Philippine bank.

PAGE 16



LIFE & STYLE

Harvard's Hasty Pudding has honored actor Bryce Dallas Howard as its Woman of the Year.

PAGE 20



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2 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Local

Kilili backs \$100B school infrastructure plan

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), chairman of the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Early Childhood. Elementary, and Secondary Education, joined Committee Chairman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (D-VA) and 152 other Democrats today in introducing H.R. 865, the Rebuild America's Schools Act.

The bill would fund \$70 billion in grants and \$30 billion in bonds to replace or repair school facilities and equip classrooms for digital learning. In addition to the educational benefits, the bill would create more than 1.9 million good-paying jobs.

Schools in the Marianas and other U.S. insular areas are particularly in need of Act sets aside \$350 million

repair and rebuilding. Even before Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu struck the Marianas and Hurricanes Irma and Maria hit the U.S. Virgin Islands, an Army Corps of Engineers evaluation put the cost of deferred maintenance at island schools at \$177 million. The Rebuild America's Schools

for island schools.

"The last big investment by the federal government in our public schools was the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, when the Democrats were last in the majority," Congressman Sablan said. "\$44.4 million went to the Marianas to modernize classrooms, strengthen technology infrastructure, and pay teachers in 2009. Ten years later, it is time for more investment in our schools."

The Rebuild America's Schools Act would:

- Create a \$70 billion grant program and \$30 billion tax credit bond program targeted at high-poverty schools with facilities that pose health and safety risks to students and staff.
- Leverage federal, state, and local resources for an overall investment of \$107 billion, creating over 1.9 million jobs, based on an Economic Policy Institute analysis that each \$1 billion spent on construction creates 17,785 jobs.
- Develop a comprehensive national database on the condition of public school facilities; such a national database currently does not exist and would provide much-needed insight into the condition of our public schools.

■ Expand access to highspeed broadband to ensure that public schools have the reliable and high-speed Internet access they need for digital learning.

The Rebuild America's Schools Act is being introduced as students, teachers, and parents throughout the country are demanding more funding for public education.

"Students and educators across the country go to school every day in crumbling buildings that are either unsafe, not equipped with essential resources, or both," said Chairman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott of the House Committee on Education and Labor.

"The Rebuild America's Schools Act is an important step toward ensuring that every student, regardless of their family's wealth, can attend a safe, welcoming, and high-See KILILI on Page 4



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February FAC remains the same

average per gallon cost of fuel.

The FAC is one of two com-

ponents that make up the CUC

electric kWh rate, which is used

to purchase fuel. The second

component is the CUC base

rate, which is used to fund op-

erations, projects, and debt ser-

vice. This base rate has not been

increased since April 17, 2014.

The Fuel Adjustment Charge a 4.5 percent differential of the of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. remains at \$0.17624 per kWh for February.

Although there has been a slight increase in the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing from January 2019 to February 2019 as notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., the increase did not equal or exceed

Judge extends Gilbane Federal's term as EEMC

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter granted last week the request of the U.S. and the CNMI governments and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to extend for one year the term of Gilbane Federal as the Engineering and

see stalled CUC projects. Carter extended the term of Gilbane Federal as EEMC to Feb. 5, 2021.

Environmental Management

Company that is tasked to over-

Gilbane Federal is a California-based construction company with 64 offices worldwide.

In 2014, Carter selected Gilbane Federal as an EEMC which would have the power to rapidly complete some stalled CUC projects or help CUC comply with court-mandated projects called Stipulated Order Number 2.

SO2 refers to projects that focus on oil issues and also apply to oil spills and the remediation of

the contaminated power plants. Carter said his 2015 order specifically authorizes extending EEMC's term.

Carter said the parties described that the EEMC, under his guidance, provided substantial assistance with SO2 projects. Those projects include construction of the CUC pipeline and Tank 102, major repairs to Tank 103, and repair and construction of secondary containment at the CUC Power Plants in Lower Base.

EEMC's assistance through Feb. 5, 2021, will hopefully assist with future projects, including one installing the incinerator unit at Power Plants 1 and 2, improvements at the Rota Power Plant, and improvements to facility drainage systems at Power Plants 1 and 2 and Power Plant 4.

U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5 percent differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate. (CUC)

Bradley O'Brien informed the court last week that the parties continue to make substantial progress in SO2, but more time is needed to complete the projects using the EEMS funds to the extent possible.

Then-CUC legal counsel James Sirok also informed the court last week that SO2 projects under the outstanding task orders are moving along on a timely basis without any major problems.

Gilbane Federal/EEMC principal Daryl Greenway recently disclosed that it has now completed seven task orders and made over \$2 million in savings for CUC. (Ferdie De La Torre)









Former Tinian mayor San Nicolas opens new law office

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com

Shortly after his term as Tinian mayor expired, Joey Patrick San Nicolas opened his new law office at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

"I have always loved the practice of law, private practice especially," San Nicolas told Saipan Tribune yesterday.

As a general practitioner, he will focus on civil, business, criminal, family, and probate law.

As for being mayor, San Nicolas felt good about serving the people of Tinian.

"I was fortunate to have

such a patient staff and management, as well as an awesome leadership team in the Tinian [Legislative] Delegation and Tinian Municipal Council," he said.

He said he also had a great relationship with the late governor Elov Inos and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and with their friends in nigno R. Fitial appointed election, he won as mayor by the federal government and U.S. military.

"It was indeed a privilege and an honor to have served as mayor of Tinian," San Nicolas said.

He first opened his law office on Saipan in 2005. In 2012, then-governor Behim as an attorney general, replacing Edward Buckingham who had resigned and left the CNMI.

In July 2014, San Nicolas resigned as AG primarily to prepare for his bid to become mayor of Tinian. That year's

the court to issue the order as

required to complete a death

petition, the 65-year-old John

J. Jones left behind a wife of

46 years, two children, five

grandchildren, and his mother.

FAA for 30 years and his last

position was in operations

engineering for the NAVAID

Support Center. He served for

two years in the U.S. Armed

According to reports from the Department of Public Safety

and the Department of Fire and

Emergency Medical Services,

John J. Jones went missing

while scuba diving at the Grotto

with three other persons in the

The search for John J.

Kosack said John J. Jones

was one of two FAA employ-

ees temporarily detailed to

Saipan to help repair the Fran-

cisco C. Ada/Saipan Interna-

tional Airport after it was dam-

aged by Super Typhoon Yutu.

and the other FAA employee

went diving last Nov. 18 for

weekend relaxation. The two

entered the waters to scuba

dive at the Grotto with two

other divers, who were both

Kosack said John J. Jones

and the other FAA employ-

ee were being led on a dive

tour as customers of a diving

compnay when they dove that

Kosack said that at 9am, the

swam together through one

dive instructors.

day at the Grotto.

Kosack said John J. Jones

Jones was called off several

morning of Nov. 18.

days later.

Forces in the Marine Corps.

John J. Jones worked for

According to Kosack in the

certificate for her husband.

DEATH

From Page 1

defeating the incumbent Ramon M. Dela Cruz.

In last November's election, San Nicolas opted not to seek re-election as mayor. Instead, he supported the candidacy of then-representative Edwin P. Aldan, who won.

USCIS

From Page 1

out to the Torres administration if they've heard anything from the White House, but they too have yet to respond to inquiries.

In a previous email to Saipan Tribune, USCIS public affairs officer Claire K. Nicholson said they would release the interim rules as soon as possible, but did not provided a specific date when that would be.

She added that the govern-

ment shutdown did not hamper their operations. "The partial shutdown of the federal government has not adversely affected USCIS operations with respect to the CNMI, except for a temporary suspension of the E-Verify program."

Sablan said he had already asked USCIS for the reason behind the delay. "Unfortunately, there is no penalty if USCIS or Labor does not issue the regulations in the required time. I have asked that, in light of the delay in issuing the regulation."

He added that the old regu-

lations remain in place. "The agency [USCIS] issued formal guidance to potential applicants. Until new regulations are published, however, the current procedures for submitting CW1 applications continue in effect.'

Saipan Tribune asked Sablan for an update on the number of CW1 petitions that have been denied after receiving reports that a lot of CW-1 workers with work permits had their visa application denied at the U.S. Embassy in Manila.

Sablan said they had yet to receive data on the number of CW-1 petitions that have been denied, but USCIS had already approved 8,036 permits for fiscal year 2019 as of Dec. 18; there are still 4,646 pending.

Issues on immigration and labor have hounded the CNMI the past few months after the Trump administration rescinded the CNMI parole program in December and last January removed the Philippines from the H-2B visa worker program used to hire construction laborers, a worker category barred from the Northern Mariana Islands

Expansion Act.

ing that she documents the daily loads, including the type of debris and its location. She further noted that the 99,000 cubic yards is debris specifically picked up by the Saipan Mayor's Office alone.

"There are more still out there because there [still some] people pulling out more from their properties," she said.

YUTU

From Page 1

must be moved to the roadside. The types of debris eligible for pickup include vegetation debris such as plants, trees, logs, and leaves; construction debris such as lumber, drywall, plywood, concrete, plumbing, carpets, furniture, broken windows, and mattresses; and tin roofing, or metal roofing in general. Each pile must be segregat-

tin and metal debris such as

ed for it to be picked up.

"[We are working through the weekend] because the deadline is coming up and we want to maximize the rental of heavy equipment," said Saipan Mayor's Office director of field operations Joann Aquino in an interview with Saipan Tribune.

Aquino further noted that the office had already collected over 99,000 cubic yards of debris since the start of the cleanup effort for Super Typhoon Yutu debris.

To put that into perspective, the Saipan Mayor's Office dump truck has a capacity of one cubic yard.

"That is what I report to FEMA," noted Aquino, add-

Under pressure

The government shut down last Dec. 22 after the Democrats thumbed down a continuing resolution that included \$5 billion to fund the construction of a new wall at the southern border, which Trump bragged that Mexico is going to pay for. The standoff lasted 35 days, causing federal workers to miss two of their paychecks.

The deadlock ended on Jan. 29 after Congress agreed to resume the government's operations while both parties negotiate a final piece of legislation that both Democrats and Republicans could support. The bipartisan conference committee now only have 10 days left to come up with a spending bill that Trump would be will-

Thank God the 800,000 work. I'm pleased that a deal until Feb. 14, for now. This alremainder of the fiscal year," said Sablan.

of the underwater passages to outside the Grotto.

When the four divers were outside the Grotto, John J. Jones signaled to one of the dive instructors that he was running low on air. At that time, he was about 60 feet below the surface of the ocean.

The dive instructor then used hand signals to inform the other dive instructor and FAA employee that he was low on air and that they should return to the Grotto.

After that, the dive instructor turned back to John J. Jones but he was no longer there.

The other dive instructor and FAA employee swam back into the Grotto through a passage without John J. Jones, as the other FAA employee was also low on air.

The remaining dive instructor swam in the other direction toward the ocean to search for John J. Jones.

The other dive instructor dropped the remaining FAA employee by the buoy inside the Grotto, then swam back through the passage to search for John J. Jones.

Kosack said the two spent about 25 additional minutes searching for John J. Jones, but they did not find him.

Kosack said the two returned to the Grotto, obtained fresh tanks of air and went back outside the Grotto to where they last saw John J. Jones.

"They did not see him there," Kosack said.

He said the two divers searched up and down the cliffline outside the Grotto, but they were unable to find John J. Jones.

The U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, and the DPS searched for Jones for several days. The search was suspended on Nov. 24.

SMART From Page 1

pass all of the bills to fund the government. When we go to conference, we will craft legislation that honors our values, respects our workers, and protects our borders. Democrats support smart, effective border security solutions," Sablan said in an email to Saipan Tribune.

The bipartisan committee hopes to agree on a spending bill that would keep the federal government running to avoid another shutdown a possible third time under the administration of President Donald J. Trump. The president has been requesting Congress for \$5.7 billion to build a southern border wall, a key promise in his 2016 campaign.

Sablan said that infrastructure, technology, and increasing personnel would be some of the highlights of the legislation.

He said Democrats fully support strengthening the country's southern border, but disagree with Trump's proposal to build a concrete wall that would cost the government \$5.7 billion—money that

could be used for other infrastructure projects or programs.

A new bill aims to increase infrastructure investment at all ports of entry by building additional ports and roads that could avoid delays.

Sablan said he and his Democratic colleagues believe building up the ports of entry infrastructure would improve security, and facilitate better trade and travel—thus ending the long delays for tourists or visitors and commercial goods to enter the country, and cost the nation billions of dollars in economic activity and thousands of jobs.

Sablan added that improving technology in detecting contraband, drugs, and other illegal goods is another key point, i.e., "installing new technology to eventually scan all commercial and passenger vehicles for illegal drugs and other contraband at our ports of entry."

"According to both [U.S. Customs and Border Protection] and [Drug Enforcement Agency], 90 percent of heroin, 88 percent of cocaine, 87 percent of methamphetamine, and 80 percent of fentanyl being smuggled into the U.S. are seized at official ports of entry, not in the areas between the ports of entry where the president wants to build his wasteful border wall."

Upgrading to the latest technology in detecting unauthorized crossings and hiring additional personnel for law enforcement and agencies that protect the borders is also a must, he said.

That would involve installing cameras, sensors, and radar to spot moving people and objects, in any weather or time of day, that are mounted on towers and border patrol vehicles, and drones to surveil tough terrain.

The Democrats also want more immigration judges and customs personnel, Sablan said, including filling the more than 3,000 customs vacancies. That would mean facilitating trade and travel at all ports of entry, inspecting commercial and passenger vehicles for illegal drugs and other contraband, and ensuring that travelers are vetted and screened before entering the United States.

Sablan said these are some of how another government shutdown could be avoided while at the same provide the needed border security at the country's ports of entries and at the southern border.

four divers entered the water at the Grotto, submerged and

ing to sign.

federal workers impacted by the shutdown are back to to re-open the government was reached, even if it is only lows the 15 Senate and House conferees to find agreement on funding for the Department of Homeland Security for the

KILILI

From Page 2

quality public school. This bill would strengthen our communities today by employing local workers and strengthen our communities in the future by setting a strong foundation for all students to reach their potential."

The legislation enjoys widespread support among educators and trade workers. Lily Eskelsen Garcia, a sixth grade teacher from

Utah who serves as president of the three-million member National Education Association, said current conditions in classrooms are "unacceptable." She cited leaky roofs, moldy carpets, asbestos and other health hazards, broken heating or air conditioning systems, and facilities that are infested with cockroaches, rats and other vermin.

"Every public school in America should reflect how much we value our students and educators," Garcia said. (PR)

Marianas named 'Best Island Travel Destination'

The Marianas was awarded "Best Island Travel Destination" at the 2018 National Tourism Fashion Awards in Beijing, China, on Jan. 22, 2019.

National Tourism Fashion Awards is one of the most influential annual events in China's tourism industry. The Marianas Visitors Authority attended the event at St. Regis Beijing to receive the award.

"The Marianas continues to make a name for itself in our source markets, and we are honored to be named 'Best Island Travel Destination' at China's 2018 National Tourism Fashion Awards," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion.

Over 400 participants from foreign embassies, overseas and domestic destination promotion organizations, airlines, travel agencies, key opinion leaders and media attended the event to study and analysis tourism market, share experience and ideas. A promotional video for the MVA was shown and postcards with the MVA logo were distributed. (MVA)



Jury trial set for man in stabbing incident

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A jury trial has been scheduled for a man who allegedly stabbed another for trying to stop him from stealing.

Ken Matzue, 43, will return to court for a jury trial on June 24. A pretrial conference was set for April 17.

Matzue was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon after a stabbing incident led to his arrest in October 2018.

Matzue remains in the custody of the Department of Correction for failing to post a bail of \$15,000.

According to Saipan Tri-

bune archives, Matzue allegedly stabbed a man who stopped him from stealing four pieces of beer at a store.

The Department of Public Safety responded to a report of a robbery and stabbing incident at New Chang Ming Market in Garapan on Oct. 14, 2018.

The report stated that police arrived at the scene of the crime at 6:59pm and found the victim with lacerations on his chest.

During an interview with the victim, he told police that Matzue came into the store and went straight to the chiller. The victim said he allegedly saw Matzue place four cans of beer into his bag and then walk over to the cash register with one beer in his hand.

The victim told police that he followed Matzue to the counter to ensure that he pays for the beers in his bag, but Matzue only paid for the one can he was holding in his hand.

After paying for the beer, the victim told Matzue to take out the four beers in his bag. When Matzue opened his bag, the vic-

tim took out the beers and did not realize that Matzue pulled a knife out of his right pocket.

Matzue allegedly stabbed the victim in his chest but the victim blocked the action and sustained a stab wound on his hand and small puncture in the chest.

Matzue immediately ran off. The victim contacted 911 to report the incident.



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A 40-year love affair with history

Bv JON PEREZ jon perez@saipantribune.com

Don Farrell's almost 40-year writing career has produced over 10 published books, the last of which is Tinian and the Bomb, the story of how the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were developed.

Farrell, whose first published book was a pictorial history of Guam's Liberation in 1944, was recognized last Jan. 24 by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council during the 21st Governor's Humanities Awards.

The longtime educator has documented the history of the CNMI in Tinian and the Bomb, and The Modern History of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"I do hope that future editions of [The Modern History of the Northern Mariana Islands] will be researched and



CNMI historian Don Farrell, left, receives his Northern Marianas Humanities Council for Research and Publication in the Humanities award from Gov. Ralph DLG Torres during the recent 21st Governor's Humanities Awards at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Democrats' bill protects Social Security, raises benefits

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and 202 other Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives introduced the Social Security 2100 Act last Wednesday (Thursday in the CNMI). The bill increases Social Security's benefits, while making the retirement system strong throughout the 21st century.

"In the Marianas, some 3,000 individuals get monthly assistance from Social Security and the program adds \$25 million to our economy each year," said Sablan. "With the Social Security 2100 Act, we can raise those benefits, but also strengthen the finances of Social Security so it lasts for generations to come."

The Social Security 2100 Act provides the following:

An across-the-board benefit increase for current and new beneficiaries.

An improved cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) that takes into account the true costs incurred by seniors.

A stronger minimum benefit, so someone who works their whole life does not retire into poverty. The new minimum benefit will be set at 25 percent above the poverty line and would be tied to wage levels to ensure that the minimum benefit does not fall behind.

A tax cut for over 12 million Social Security recipients. Presently, Social Security benefits are taxed if non-Social Security income exceeds \$32,000 for couples. The threshold would be raised to \$100,000.

Holding SSI and Medicaid beneficiaries harmless. Ensures that any increase in benefits from the bill do not result in a reduction in SSI benefits or loss of eligibility for Medicaid.

The bill pays for these improvements by making those with earnings above \$400,000 pay into the system. Currently, payroll taxes aren't collected on wages over \$132,900.

Social Security is the insurance program that Americans everywhere pay for over a lifetime of work. Social Security funds their retirement, helps if they become disabled, and provides for their survivors. Created during the presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Social Security is considered one of the most successful federal programs in American history. (PR)

written by indigenous historians," said Farrell, who was recognized by the council for his contribution in Research and Publication in the Humanities.

He describes the two books as labors of love. "I'm passionate with what I've been doing in the last 40 years now. And, as I've said before, I enjoy it very much," added Farrell, who also challenged the younger generation to take on the role of CNMI historian.

"There is one shortage, in the record of the history of the Marianas, and it would certainly help future historians do a better job of writing the history of the CNMI. Particularly the history of Saipan, for some courageous young Carolinian to write the Carolinian history of Saipan. I hope someone would step forward [and take up] that

challenge."

He thanked all the people who helped him accomplish his work. "It has been my great pleasure to research and write these books. Support from many well-known authors who provided input on technical issues was critical. I also had help from an excellent editor and a fine graphics artist. Editing by Scott Russell was essential, as was the graphics art talents of Emelinda Cabrera and Ron Smith."

The Modern History of the Northern Mariana Islands is a publication of the CNMI Public School System.

Copies of the books are available from the PSS Treasurer on Capital Hill, Bestseller, and American Memorial Park Visitors Center. All money raised from sales of this book goes to a PSS revolving fund.

500 Sails swimming lessons continue

By ERWIN ENCINARES

erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com

An organization that aims to revive the traditional boating culture of the CNMI will resume offering swimming lessons that were interrupted by Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018.

500 Sails said it would be continuing its morning swim sessions with the Dolphin Club Saipan on Feb. 4, 2019.

The swimming lessons will continue every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 6am to 7am at the Guma Sakman, across the courthouse in Susupe.

"...The 500 Sails' main office, the Guma Sakman, had become roofless," the statement explained. It said that, with the help of community

partners, 500 Sails and the Gamsun Project student lifeguards "worked to clear the tin and debris in the water, making it safe to swim [in] again."

The 500 Sail's Gamsun Project is a youth swimming program.

"As the Guma Sakman awaits repair, participants who prefer to rinse...on-site are asked to bring their own rinse water until showers and bathrooms are functional again," the statement noted.

To learn more about 500 Sails, visit their website at 500sails.org. For those interested in the Gamsun Project, contact Lorenza Aldan at lorenza.aldan@marianas.edu.

Both the swimming lessons and the Gamsun Project are free of charge.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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01/09/19

Notice for Public Comment Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Program Year/ IDIS No.:	Program:	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget:	Proposed Reprogramming Amount:	Proposed Revised Project Budget:	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
2018/687	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Tinian Gymnasium Basketball Court	Office of the Tinian Mayor	\$86,250.00	(\$86,250.00)	N/A	\$86,250.00
2018/689	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Rota Youth Center	Department of Community and Cultural Affairs	\$200,000.00	(\$200,000.00)	N/A	\$200,000.00
2018/690	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Tanapag Youth Center	Department of Community and Cultural Affairs	\$200,000.00	(\$200,000.00)	N/A	\$200,000.00
2018/691	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Children's Park Roof	Office of the Rota Mayor	\$287,212.40	(\$287,212.40)	N/A	\$287,212.40
		Total Reprogrammed from Activities:		\$773,462.40	(\$773,462.40)		
2018	CDBG	Purchase and Installation of Modular Homes for Transitional Housing (Saipan, Tinian, and Rota)	Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)		\$773,462.40	N/A	N/A
		Total Reprogrammed to Activities:			\$773,462.40		

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) that we publish a "Public Notice" on reprogramming of funds over \$50,001.00. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central office located in Garapan, Saipan on or before February 11, 2019, no later than 10 a.m. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at (670)234-6866/9447.



COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION

P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857 • Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856



AGENDA

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled a special meeting on Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Conference Room of the Commission's main office at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan

The following Agenda will be discussed:

PRELIMINARIES:

Roll Call

Adoption of Agenda

II. **REPORTS:**

Report by the Chairman

Report by the Executive Director

PUBLIC COMMENTS

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Consideration and Adoption of: Emergency Adoption and Adoption for Publication for Public Comment of Proposed Commission Personnel Regulations.

NEW BUSINESS: None

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS: None VI.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

VIII ADJOURNMENT

The Commission reserves the right to amend this agenda and take action on the amended agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910(b). Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more, if necessary,

Juan M. Sablan Chairman

Lunar New Year at the Hyatt



By BEA CABRERA

beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com CORRESPONDENT

Hyatt Regency Saipan welcomes the Year of the Pig this week with a special menu prepared by a visiting chef from the Andaz Xintiandi, a Hyatt boutique hotel in Shanghai, China.

Kili Café & Terrace will be open from 6pm to 9pm on Feb. 4-6, Monday to Wednesday, to highlight the best dishes of Chef Eric Ni.

Ni will prepare "Shanghainese cuisine" with a modern twist, in hopes of offering the most authentic Chinese New Year experience. His food will showcase traditional food eaten by families in China during this celebration.

"The array of dishes that I will cook are the same dishes served by Chinese families in China to celebrate the new vear. ...The different dishes together...represents families reuniting for this special occasion," he said. "I hope everyone will enjoy this special food and flavors that I brought all the way from Shanghai."

Finding the correct ingredients here on Saipan was a challenge but Ni rose to the challenge, saying his favorite dishes on the menu involves shrimps. "The shrimps are very fresh and Hyatt chef Shawn Lee helped me in many ways, concocting the special sauces so its is very tasty and special."

He describes Shanghai dishes as less spicy and salty. "In every dish, I make sure the natural flavor is preserved and come out, ensuring a light taste that will appeal to anyone," Ni said. "It is my first



The desserts will be composed of Hyatt's well-known mango pudding, chocolate sesame ball and vanilla ice cream.

BEA CABRERA

time on Saipan and the experience inspires me a lot... and I hope to translate that inspiration to the dishes that I will prepare."

According to Hyatt Chinese sales manager Mei Demapan, the new year celebration is also a celebration of families coming together. "More than Christmas, the Lunar New Year is the one really anticipated in China. This is a time for family members who work in the city to come back to their hometowns and be with their families," she said.

"In the same way, we hope to bring families on Saipan together to enjoy the celebration and hope for good things to come in the new year," she added.

Demapan said that different menus will be served on the three nights of the Lunar New Year celebration. "For every night, different dishes will be served. In a way, our guests can come



A sample of four kinds of cold cuts that includes shrimp, braised beef, jellyfish, and fried carp. **BEA CABRERA**



The Crispy King Prawn will captivate you with its sweet and chili sauce, one of the main entrees at the 2019 Lunar New Year celebration of the Hyatt Regency Saipan. BEA CABRERA

every night and still experience something new every time," she said.

A traditional lion dance will be performed by the Chinese Association of Saipan at the Hyatt lobby to greet and welcome guests and paper lanterns will be displayed on tables to complete the Lunar New Year ambiance.

Hyatt assistant marketing communications manager Claudine Camacho encourages everyone to book reservations at 234-1234. Dinner price is at \$60 per person and \$40 for Club at the Hyatt members.

The Lunar New Year falls on Feb. 5 this year. It is believed to bring stability in wealth and health.

This is Hyatt's fifth year of celebrating what is considered China's most important festival, the Lunar New Year, which, according to the Chinese calendar, is the start of the new moon.

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Cartier opens boutique on Saipan

By BEA CABRERA

beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com CORRESPONDENT

Cartier, the French company known the world over for its luxury products, brought its brand to the CNMI with a new boutique inside DFS Saipan that opened its doors last Saturday.

The opening was attended by Cartier Saipan officials, DFS managers, residents, and tourists that came to check out the Cartier line of jewelry, watches, bags, wallets, and perfumes.

Billy Chung, assistant general manager, said that Cartier Saipan carries classic pieces and exclusive fine jewelry that are not available anywhere elseeven in other Cartier stores.

"One of the key highlights of this boutique is the three exclusive pieces considered one of the most famous collection of Cartier called the 'Panther Collection' that includes a necklace, bracelet, and ring. The panther's head is the signature look of this collection—filled with diamonds, emeralds as eyes and well as the nose—with a total retail value of \$500,000," he said.

"We are proud to carry this collection on Saipan as this is a product of working closely with Cartier. We thank Cartier for the trust because those pieces have never been here before until tonight and this shows Cartier's huge confidence of having a shop [on] Saipan," he added.

Chung said their opening is perfect timing as the Lunar New Year is happening this week. "With the influx of tourists gaining momentum again



French brand Cartier opened its new boutique inside DFS Saipan last Saturday. Heading the ribbon-cutting ceremonies were DFS general manager Milan Rabold and Cartier assistant sales manager Billy Chung.

on island, we consider this very good for us. The opening of the shop and the Lunar New Year coming up, we are already seeing a good return of our Chinese customers and tourists from other Asian countries."

He said that, despite Saipan being hit by a super typhoon a few months ago, "we have been continuously working with the team in Hong Kong so that we can get the collection that we asked for and we remained very optimistic," he said.

Aside from tourists, their team is seeing more local customers "and we are very happy

to see this happen as we have been working hard in renovating the stores so we can have our local customers enjoy their shopping time," he added.

In terms of sales, Chung said that Saipan is a booming market. "We have the best items for both ladies and men from our popular Cartier collection. ... Cartier Saipan carries the most popular collections available like the Ballon Bleu de Cartier and the Santos de Cartier collection for men."

He said the Santos de Cartier watches are very special pieces. Aside from being one

of the first designs of Cartier, the watches were redesigned, relaunched, "and now look more elegant. Sales is good. We have been growing in terms of Cartier sales and our Cartier partners are very confident with us in terms of sales here on Saipan," he added.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion sees the opening of the new Cartier boutique as a positive sign. "Cartier and DFS have been in the CNMI for many years and their latest investment comes at a critical time for the tourism industry. We are still recovering from Super Typhoon Yutu, with some flights from Korea waiting to resume and new flights from Japan and Taiwan set to happen soon, so this new investment sends a positive message to our source markets that the CNMI is back in business and ready to welcome visitors from abroad once again," he said.

"Cartier attracts extremely high-end clientele because of its renowned products and historic ties to European royalty and famous celebrities. It is regarded as one of the most prestigious jewelry and watch-making companies in

This Cartier model is wearing a set of jewelry exclusive to Cartier Saipan boutique called the Panther Collection. It is composed of a necklace, bracelet, and ring. The set is covered in diamonds and the panther's eyes and nose are made of emeralds.

the world and ranks as one of Forbes' most valuable brands in the world," he added.

Milan Rabold, general manager DFS Saipan, said that DFS has been undergoing renovations to make way for more shops, boutiques and extra spaces. "The beauty hall is done...[and] people can expect more beauty brands. Aside from Cartier, we also opened Omega, Fendi, Prada."

"Our VIP lounge for our VIP shoppers is also underway. We are looking at two more weeks before it is finished," he added.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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AMENDED NOTICE

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport "Car Rental Concessions"

CPA-RFP-002-19 **Request for Proposals**

CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-01 CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-02

CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-03 CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-04 CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-05 CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-06

six (6) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Sainan International Airport ("Car Rental Concessions"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-002-19 is **December 05, 2018,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Francisco C, Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Francisco C, Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96595, and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) by or before 4:30 p.m. on February 8, 2019, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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AMENDED NOTICE

Tinian International Airport "Car Rental Concessions"

CPA-RFP-003-19 **Request for Proposals**

CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-07 CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-08 CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such tor vehicle rental services) at the Tinian International Airport ("Car Rental Concessions"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Tinian International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-003-19 is December 05, 2018, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Francisco C, Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) by or before 4:30 p.m. on February 8, 2019, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70)

> CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO Executive Director



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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AMENDED NOTICE

Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport "Car Rental Concessions"

CPA-RFP-004-19 **Request for Proposals**

CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-10 CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-11 CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-12

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport ("Car Rental Concessions") The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-004-19 is **December 05, 2018,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee CPA Administration Office Francisco C. Ada/Sainan International Airport PO Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) by or before 4:30 p.m. on February 8, 2019, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO

Dems unanimously endorse Barcinas' candidacy

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com

The CNMI Democratic Party unanimously voted to endorse former Republican Party member Donald Barcinas in the upcoming special election for Precinct 3 representative on March 23.

Nola Hix, CNMI Democratic Party chair and the party's first female chair since its inception, said that the Democrats fully support Barcinas despite the fact that he switched parties because they share the same beliefs and are

willing to fight for them.

"Basically, it all aligns with why he switched parties. He basically switched from the Republican to the Democrats because of his morals and how he felt about the cannabis bill that was brought about. ... Mainly, when he came to us, he believed in the two-party system, he knew that when he wasn't going to be aligned with the Republicans he was going to be a Democrat and this is what democracy is all about, we don't want to leave any stone unturned...we want them to know that they do



Members of the CNMI Democratic Party pose for a photo after unanimously voting to endorse former Republican representative Donald Barcinas.

2018 AlumKnight named to dean's list

Matthew Melchor, a resident of Saipan, has earned placement on the Gonzaga dean's University list for the fall se-Students mester.

must earn a 3.50 Melchor to 3.84 grade-point average to be listed. Melchor is a 2018 graduate of Mount Carmel School, where he was active in drama, speech, debate, and mock trial and represented

the school and the CNMI

multiple times at national

competitions. Based on his experience at his alma Melchor was able to secure an attorney spot on Gonzaga's competitive mock trial program

Gonzaga University is a private Catholic, Jesuit, and humanistic university providing education to more than 7,800 students. Situated along the Spokane River near downtown Spokane, Washington. (PR)

have a party to call home and that is the Democratic Party," she said Wednesday night at the Grandvrio Hotel.

Barcinas said that he is honored and excited to belong to a party that believes in the same issues as him and supports what he believes in.

"I believe that we need to redirect our focus on our economy and encourage lo-

cal entrepreneurship and local investors rather than foreign investors. I think that our economy would be more sustainable in the long run. And the money would stay here instead of moving out of the Commonwealth," he said.

Barcinas said the support he has received from the party in the short span that he has been a part of it has been tremendous.

"...I feel very honored and fortunate that there is a party that's willing to work with me in this special election and for the betterment of our Commonwealth and for our people, our children, our future," he said.

Barcinas is confident that he can bring change to Precinct 3 if he is elected but he also gave credit to the late representative Frank Dela Cruz.

"I want to give credit to my colleague. This was his seat and he was a very special person to me. The legacy that he left behind, it's hard to follow but I would like, and I am willing, to follow in his footsteps. He spoke for the people and what he stood for, for the good of the Commonwealth," he said.







Federal Contracting Bootcamp Part 1

Tuesday, February 5, 2019 @ 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM CDA Board Room, 1st Floor, San Jose



Presented by: Boris Hertslet, Program Manager

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Federal Contracting Bootcamp Part 2

Tuesday, February 5, 2019 @ 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM CDA Board Room, 1st Floor, San Jose



Presented by: Boris Hertslet, Program Manager

Each year, the federal government awards hundreds of billions of dollars in federal contracts to business to meet the needs of federal agencies and the military. This training will cover the steps needed in order to do business with the federal government:

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10 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Why it's hard to get too excited about the Rams in the Super Bowl

ver the last three years, Los Angeles has gone from being a city with no professional football teams to a city with two: the former San Diego Chargers and the former St. Louis Rams. Both teams had called Los Angeles home earlier in their histories only to abandon us for greener fields, which may help explain why the region has warmed so slowly to their return (at home games, a humbling portion of the fans root for the visiting team). But the teams' rapid ascent—both made it to the playoffs this season, and the Rams are playing in the Super Bowl game Sunday in Atlanta—should not only lift their profiles, but, if the Rams succeed in topping the Hall of Fame-heavy New England Patriots, make them the darlings of L.A. ... at least until opening day at Dodgers Stadium.

Yet even as we celebrate the teams, we're a bit uneasy giving the NFL a full embrace. The league has struggled for years to get more diversity in top management and ownership, and has had a spotty record in addressing issues of domestic violence among its players. Most significantly, the league has not fully addressed the dark reality of brain damage among players, which in many cases has led to dementia and suicide.

For years, the league fought against arguments that the numerous and intense head impacts that players experienced were leaving many of them with significant long-term health problems, including Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), a degenerative brain disease. From 2012 through the end of this regular season, the NFL reported an average of 244 concussions per 256-game regular season.

The NFL initially downplayed the potential link between the violence of the game and its players' brain health later in life. A 2016 congressional report accused the NFL of trying to influence research into CTE by withholding funding; the league has since donated \$100 million for research. Yet as the nation watches the game Sunday—or any other game day during the season—odds are good that we are watching athletes whose performance will lead, in some cases, to their premature deaths.

This isn't to rain on the Rams' victory parade—and getting to the Super Bowl is in itself a victory for a team that lost 75 percent of its games just two seasons ago, regardless of the final score. But the NFL is an entertainment business in a sport built on violence, and its failure to successfully address such troubling problems dims the allure of what should be a bright moment in this newly revived NFL town.

(c)2019 Los Angeles Times



The best economic policy for the working class

S. politics is currently dominated by efforts to exact vengeance on behalf of working-class Americans. On the right, the target is rising globalism. On the left, it is wealth itself.

Both approaches have their appeal—and both are doomed. The Trump administration's plan to isolate America (raise tariffs and close the border) has created chaos in both politics and markets. And higher taxes on the wealthy, favored by an increasing number of well-meaning Democrats, will make the U.S. economy less dynamic.

And yet the question remains of what can be done for the working class. Is there another solution to the stagnating wages and declining hopes of American workers? There is. And it comes in the form of monetary policy.

Since 1980, there has been a sustained increase in real median weekly earnings only twice: once in the late 1990s, and now. What these periods have in common is the willingness of the Federal Reserve to tolerate a prolonged period of low unemployment.

For almost four decades, the Fed's No. 1 mission has been to keep inflation low and stable. This means a monetary policy that avoids excessively low unemployment, and the wage increases that go along with it. (The theory is that higher wages lead to higher costs for businesses, higher prices for consumers and, eventually, higher inflation.) So when the Fed is worried that unemployment is so low it could bring about a rise in inflation, its response has been straightforward: Raise interest rates to slow down the economy and let unemployment rise.

The Fed's deviations from this policy are instructive. In the late 1990s, as unemployment began to drift below what the Fed determined to be a safe level, there were concerns that a rise in inflation was imminent. So Fed economists recommended an increase in interest rates.

But Alan Greenspan, then Fed chairman, believed that new technologies would provide enough productivity growth to pay for rising wages. As it turned out, he was correct. Throughout the economy, technology enabled new efficiencies—in fields as diverse as retail and (of course) IT.

What's more, the late '90s showed how a willingness to let unemployment fall to very low levels can be good for productivity. Low unemployment pushes up the cost of labor, but it also pressures businesses to use labor more efficiently.

Think about it: A manager who is constantly worried about rising costs will naturally turn her creative thoughts to keeping them low. By contrast, a manager who is dogged by low sales will be more interested in retaining customers and keeping them satisfied. A world with chronically low demand, therefore, will

By KARL W. SMITH

Bloomberg News

Karl W. Smith is a senior fellow at the Niskanen Center and founder of the blog Modeled Behavior.



result in fewer cost-reducing innovations.

Today the economy is benefiting from another deviation in Fed policy, for a different reason. After the Great Recession a decade ago, millions of Americans gave up looking for work. Many economists concluded that they were lost from the workforce forever. At the same time—as early as 2014, when unemployment was at 6 percent—there were fears that the economy would soon begin experiencing a dangerous increase in inflation. Some Fed officials recommended raising rates to stave off this possibility.

Once again, the impulse was resisted. The worry was that slowing the economy too soon could spark a renewed financial crisis that would prove nearly impossible to escape. So rates remained low though 2017, when they began their gradual increase.

Just as the late '90s showed that low inflation could coexist with low unemployment, so did the early teens. In fact, employment growth has been better than expected. Workers who had been written off are beginning to return to the workforce. This overall increase in economic growth has sustained corporate profits even as wages have begun to increase.

To date, a spiral of rising wages leading to rising prices has failed to set in. Yes, some industries have reported worker shortages—but this has led to pulling workers off the sidelines and an increased interest in innovation. Restaurants have begun experimenting with kiosks and digital menus. The trucking industry is pushing hard for autonomous vehicles.

These developments were already happening; a tightening labor market simply identified where they were most needed. That is likely to speed further development and increase productivity growth, just as it did in the late '90s. The wage gains that workers have experienced are more likely to last.

The poor prospects that workers have faced over the last 40 years have been caused by a monetary policy that tolerates more unemployment than is necessary and spurs less innovation than is possible. Putting an end to policies that intentionally slow down the economy when unemployment gets "too low" is essential to any effort to improve those prospects.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or

less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A year to remember!

rdinarily you hear from the Friends of the Mariana Trench chairman, Ike Cabrera. In one of our recent meetings he asked if perhaps, this time, I could give you a review of the projects the Friends spearheaded in 2018. We really had an amazing year!

In the first decade since the Mariana Trench was declared, the most exciting development has been the new discoveries found in the waters surrounding our islands, something we want to share with our people. To accomplish this, the Friends organized several outreach projects to educate our community on the uniqueness and importance of our ocean using the newest science and technologies.

Let me mention here that we are in the midst of a membership drive, and I encourage you to reach out and inquire about joining. Local partnership and support are the most important building blocks for the success of our organization. Also, strong membership allows us to work together and rely on each other to create and complete projects that help teach our children about ocean conservation. We could use your help in organizing activities like these next year and into the future.

Our largest project last year was the underwater robot workshop we organized with co-funding from The Pew Charitable Trusts and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, with in-kind contributions from OpenROV, Blackbeard Biologic, and the Northern Marianas Trades Institute. The Marine Ecology via Remote Observation Workshop was facilitated by Dr. Andrew Thaler and Dr. Stacy Baez, visiting scientists from Blackbeard Biologic and Pew, respectively. The scientists conducted two workshops over two weeks and trained eight community leaders and 18 students from Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam on how to build, operate, and maintain low-cost open-source remotely operated vehicles. Local organizations and government agencies, including the Okeanos Marianas, NMTI, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, and University of Guam, were given their own undersea robot at the end of the workshop to be used for their own research and educational programs. Since the completion of our workshop,

these instructors and students have since expanded their research and initiated further new projects using their robots.

This project embodied the concept and inclusiveness our organization wants to continue promoting in our community. This project demonstrated collaboration between public and private entities, it ranged in its diversity and reach, both geographically and culturally as well by backgrounds and the varying ages of our participants, and the outcomes were multiple by design—trade skills using tech, capacity-building, and tangible resources that stay in the community.

While the robot workshop was targeted toward STEM educators, practitioners, and students, our second project was for the wider community. In 2017 we came up with the idea of launching a photo exhibit of the Mariana Trench. The monument is intangible for many people because it is so far away; it's hard to connect with what you cannot see, touch, or visit. However, in recent years photos and videos have emerged from the American, Chinese, and Japanese researchers exploring the trench. One of these research cruises was the NOAA Okeanos Explorer cruise, which explored the deeps of the Mariana Trench in 2016.

Together with the NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, we selected 50 of the best images taken from the NOAA research cruise and asked followers on our Facebook page to identify their favorites. We also encouraged people to ask questions they had about the many unique creatures. We then worked with the Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy who donated the framing of the 32 most popular photos and whose scientists provided answers to all the research questions our followers had. These answers were converted to photo descriptions for the photo exhibit. Once this was accomplished, we engaged with the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas and the Marianas Visitors Authority to partner on creating a traveling photo exhibit hosted in HANMI hotel lobbies and, upon request, available for outreach in our community. We cannot bring everyone to the monument, so we brought the monument to everyone! We also organized a similar photo exhibit co-sponsored by and hosted by the Underwater World of Guam in Tumon. This project also embodied the concept and inclusiveness our organization wants to continue promoting in our community. This exhibit is currently at the Fiesta

By LAURIE PETERKA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Laurie Peterka is a member of the Friends of the Mariana Trench.



Resort & Spa lobby and free to the public. If you get a chance, I highly recommend visiting!

While the robot workshop and the photo exhibit were our signature projects this year, we have also been working closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife National Wildlife Refuge Service Guam office and the National Wildlife Refuge Association. NWRS Guam co-sponsored a Mentoring Grant for the Friends facilitated by the NWRA. The grant's focus is to help Friend's groups organize, re-organize and develop a strong foundation in preparation for becoming a formal partner with the NWRS. This year, our organization tackled several housekeeping items internally while also working with our mentors to prepare for a future working relationship with the NWRS. Additionally, we worked with a NWRS intern and staff member for 10 days in July 2018. We guided these folks in conducting outreach at public events, including a Rotary Club lunch, the Sabalu Market, the Street Market and the Liberation Day parade. The NWRS staff also worked closely with the Friends of the Library during this visit to add a science camp to their summer activities. It was a great experience for the NWR staff to see the interest and engagement from the people of the CNMI!

Hopefully, this recap fills you in on anything that you've missed about the Friends activities last year. We are very hopeful and excited for an equally active 2019. We also hope that the second decade of the monument is as exciting as the first, and that the management plans we've been advocating for finally come to fruition.

If you are interested in becoming more active in how we protect our oceans and if you want to learn more about the Mariana Trench, please email to marianamonument@gmail.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you

Congressman Gregorio Sablan, D-Northern Mariana Islands, has once again demonstrated his leadership by introducing a bill, this time with Congressman Michael McCaul, R-Texas, to ban the sale of shark fins throughout the country. This mirrors a ban that the Northern Mariana Islands enacted in 2011.

Shark populations worldwide are in danger; some populations have declined by up to 90 percent in recent decades.

This is due in large part to the booming global market for shark fins—the key ingredient in shark fin soup. Many of these fins are obtained through the cruel practice known as finning: slicing the fins off a live shark, then discarding the mutilated animal to drown, bleed to death, or be eaten alive by other fish.

By removing the U.S. from this destructive transnational

trade, the bill will result in fewer sharks killed. I am extremely grateful to Congressman Sablan for his commitment to marine wildlife.

Sara Amundson

President, Humane Society Legislative Fund Washington, D.C.

Thanks for nothing!

I would like to thank a particular female doctor at the CHCC's Family Care Clinic for sending my younger brother into a state of depression as a result of not clearing him to be referred to an eye specialist performing surgery in Guam. This eye specialist holds office in the U.S. mainland and only performs surgery several times a year in Guam. I am writing this as I see this so-called doctor's decision not to act will have a profound effect on whether my brother's eye issues become permanent.

My younger brother was born without an eardrum in one ear and a semi-functioning one in the other. As a teenager, he was lucky enough to receive surgery in which they restored his hearing in full on the side with no eardrum. As an adult he has lost full hearing in the semi-functioning one and the implant too is now wearing down to a point where we must literally shout to communicate.

Adding to his hearing problems is his gradual loss of vision this past year and a half. If my brother loses both his hearing and vision, then how can we communicate? We can't teach him Braille as he can't hear the instructions. We can't teach him sign language as he won't be able to see the fingers in front of him.

I guess I'm venting my frustration with this woman as It's not like he hasn't made the attempt to rectify his eye condition. The

past year he has made several trips from Rota to Saipan to see the "government recommended" eye clinic. At one time the doctor at that clinic even lectured my brother about missing his appointment. That was when Medical Referral did not process his referral.

After missing his appointment twice due to the same referral issues, I recommended the Marianas Eye Institute as I too underwent retinal surgery in Guam from the same visiting doctor. During my stint in Guam for surgery, there was another Rota patient from the "government recommended" clinic. He, too, had difficulty getting to the promised land, like my brother. At the very end, we both walked in for surgery and only one of us walked out with his eyesight restored; the other went permanently blind.

People from Rota, please heed my caution that the Marianas Eye Institute is the "best" at the referral process and accept no other. Marianas Eye followed through on my referral papers from start to finish. Their staff are so good at following up that they border on being annoying. Til this very day, I still receive calls from them reminding me of follow up checkups.

I was right about it after all. Within a week of his initial check up with Marianas Eye, he was placed on the Pacific Retina Specialists list for surgery. This news made all of us jump out of our seats with joy. There was a chance that my brother could have his eyesight back, or so we thought.

By further examining this issue I came across more questions as followed:

- If she is so worried about his blood pressure, then why did she allow him to leave FCC? At times, Dr. Aldan has kept me back and refused to allow me to leave his clinic 'til my blood pressure stabilized. For this, I am truly grateful.
- Why did I not have any problems when I went through the process? The difference was that I had insurance and went to my primary physician at the Saipan Health Clinic while my brother's choice is limited to FCC because he's on Medicaid.
- Why did the other clinic take over a year? The "government recommended" clinic may have good doctors, but the support staff may be the lynchpin in this case.
- Could they be colluding as the government doctor disapproves the trip because it's not coming from the "government recommended" clinic? I guess we'll never know.
- Thank you for allowing me to share my disappointment.

Ross Manglona

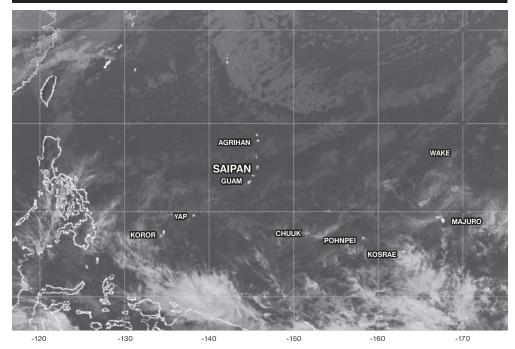
Annex F, Rota

12 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN												
TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY								
	Ŵ	(\$	ক্	কু								
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.								
88° 77°	87º 77º	87º 77º	88° 77°	87º 77º								

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:02 AM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Clouds and isolated showers continue to move past Guam this morning, meanwhile a shear line from upstream is slowly descending toward Saipan waters and may arrive sooner than the sun-rise. Fresh to strong northeast trade-winds are evident over the region, and seas at Ritidian and Ipan buoys ranges between 7 to 10 feet over the last few hours.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESI	▲ ▼°F	
Guam and Rota	Showers	83° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Cloudy	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Showers	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Showers	85° / 79°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 81°

AROUND THE		▲ ▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	75° / 64°
Beijing	Cloudy	43° / 25°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	70° / 64°
Honolulu	Showers	80° / 69°
London	Mostly Cloudy	41° / 34°
Los Angeles	Showers	63° / 56°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 73°
Melbourne	Sunny	93° / 72°
Miami	Thunderstorms	75° / 70°
New York	Cloudy	28° / 18°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	50° / 37°
Paris	Rain	45° / 37°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	52° / 45°
Rome	Showers	57° / 55°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	60° / 39°
San Francisco	Rain	55° / 50°
Seoul	Cloudy	45° / 34°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	54° / 36°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	33° / 24°



Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
 Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIP	AN HARBOR TO	DAY FEET
01:41 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.25
08:38 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.81
2:05 PM	LOW TIDE	1.11
6:54 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.83

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:45 AM	6:16 PM
Tuesday	6:45 AM	6:16 PM
Wednesday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Thursday	6:44 AM	6:17 PM
Friday	6:44 AM	6:17 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:09 AM	5:46 PM	-
Tuesday	6:53 AM	6:35 PM	-
Wednesday	7:34 AM	7:24 PM	-
Thursday	8:14 AM	8:11 PM	-
Friday	8:52 AM	8:58 PM	-

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FLIG	HT S	CHEDI	JLE AS	OF JAN	UARY	21, 20	19
ı	DEPAR	TURES			ARRI	VALS	
SAIPAN-GUA	M (GUM)			GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN		
UA117 UA105	9:15am 6:25pm		Daily 2, 4	UA174 UA104	7:30am 4:50pm		Daily 2, 4
SAIPAN-BUS	AN (PUS)		BUSAN (PUS	S)-SAIPAN	l	
7C3451	3:15am		Daily	7C3452		2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1
SAIPAN-SEOU	UL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)	-SAIPAN		
0Z626	2:10am		1	7C3402	10:10am		Daily
0Z626	2:50am		2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z625 0Z625		1:00am+1 1:40am+1	7 1, 2, 3, 4,
7C3403	4:35am		Daily	702404	10 10	2.40 a.m 1	5, 6
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHAI	NGHAI (I	PVG)		SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAI	PAN	
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HAN	GZHOU (HGH)		HANGZHOU	(HGH)-SA	IPAN	
JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1	JD395	8:05am		4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUA	NGZHOU	(CAN)		GUANGZHOU	I (CAN)-S	AIPAN	
3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJ	ING (PEI	()		BEIJING (PE	K)-SAIPA	N	
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MAN	ILA (MN	L)		MANILA (MN	IL)-SAIPA	N	
UA117/183 UA117/183	9:15am 9:15am		2, 5 via GUM 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA182/174 PR110/UA174			3, 6 via GUM Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183 UA105/183	4:45pm 4:45pm		2 via GUM 4 via GUM	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HON	G KONG	(HKG)		HONG KONG	(HKG)-S/	AIPAN	
HX077	1:50am		1, 4	0Z722/625		1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z626/721 0Z626/721	2:10am	11:50am 11:50am	1 via ICN 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,	0Z722/625		1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
			7 via ICN	HX076		12:15am+1	3, 7
U043	5:45am		1, 3, 5, 7	U042			7
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,	U042		4:25am+1	2, 4, 6 2, 4 via GUM
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	6 via GUM 2, 4 via GUM	UA116/174 UA116/174		8:11am+1 8:11am+1	
I ECENID: Dave: N	Manday (1)	Tuesday (2)	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	Thursday (4) Eri	day (E) Cat	unday (C) and (2dov. (7), 211

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

	1301 1302 1303	DEPARTURE 7:30AM 11:30AM 4:00PM	ARRIVAL 8:00AM 12:00PM 4:30PM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily	1204 1205 1206 1207 1208	10:00AM 11:00AM 12:00PM 1:00PM 2:00PM	10:15AM 11:15AM 12:15PM 1:15PM 2:15PM	Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily
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'Best of the Best' in the Guam Air Guard named

Airmen, family members, and guests gathered for the Guam Air National Guard's Enlisted Awards Banquet on Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort Hotel's Ballroom in Oka, Tamuning, for the announcement of the

2018 Outstanding Airmen of thew Naputi, 254th Security the Year.

And the winners are:

- Airman of the Year: Senior Airman Sky Topasna, 254th RED HORSE Squadron
- Noncommissioned Officer of the Year: Staff Sgt. Mat-

Forces Squadron

■ Senior NCO of the Year: Master Sgt. Jerry Hinkle, 254th Security Forces Squadron

Aside from glass trophies to recognize their accomplishments, the airmen and soldiers

received gift baskets filled with a variety of gifts courtesy of the Guam Chamber of Commerce's Armed Forces Committee; the Enlisted Association of the National Guard, Guam Chapter; the National Guard Association of Guam,

and the Guam Air Guard's Defenders Association.

The Guam Air National Guard winners now move on to vie for top airman among the Pacific Air Forces Air Guard units and, at the same time, go up against nominees

from 53 other states and territories across the Air National Guard. If they win at this level, they will compete in the Air Force-wide selection of the top airmen. Guam Guard airmen in recent years have won at all three higher levels. (PR)



U.S. Army Lt. Col. Esther Aguigui, The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard, addresses about 400 airmen, family members and guests, during the Guam Air National Guard's Enlisted Awards Banquet on Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort, in Oka, Tamuning, Guam. **GUAM NATIONAL GUARD**



Staff Sgt. Matthew Naputi, from the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Security Forces Squadron, is presented with his award during the Guam Air National Guard's Enlisted Awards Banquet on Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort, in Oka, Tamuning, Guam. From left to right are: Chief Master Sgt. John Quinata, GUANG Command Chief; Lt. Col. Esther Aguigui, The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard; Gov. Leon Guerrero; Staff Sgt. Naputi; Mrs. Malani Naputi; Brig. Gen. Johnny Lizama, Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Guam National Guard; State Command Sgt. Major Melchor Hennegan, State Enlisted Advisor; and Col. Graham Botha, Commander, 254th Air Base Group, Guam Air National Guard. **GUAM NATIONAL GUARD**



Gov. Lourdes Leon Guerrero, commander-in-chief of the Guam National Guard, gives her opening remarks during the Guam Air National Guard's Enlisted Awards Banquet on Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort, in Oka, Tamuning, Guam. **GUAM NATIONAL GUARD**

Master Sgt. Jerry Hinkle, from the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Security Forces Squadron, is presented with his award by Gov. Lourdes Leon Guerrero, commander-in-chief of the Guam National Guard, third from left, during the Guam Air National Guard's Enlisted Awards Banquet on Saturday,

Feb. 2, at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort, in Oka, Tamuning, Guam. From left to right: Chief

Master Sgt. John Quinata, GUANG Command Chief; Lt. Col. Esther Aguigui, The Adjutant General of

the Guam National Guard; Gov. Leon Guerrero; Master Sgt. Jerry Hinkle; Brig. Gen. Johnny Lizama,

two US-72A Lakota Helicopters.











Retired U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Frank Yoakum, 3rd from left, received a Chief's Head gift, from the Guam Air National Guard chief master sergeants for delivering an inspirational keynote speech during the GUANG's Enlisted Awards Banquet on Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort, in Oka, Tamuning, Guam. From left to right: Chief Master Sgt. Phil Taijeron, 254th RED HORSE Squadron; Chief Master Sgt. John Quinata, GUANG Command Chief; Retired SGM Frank Yoakum; State Command Sqt. Maj. Melchor Hennegan, State Enlisted Advisor; Chief Master Sat. Richard Delin. 254RHS: and Chief Master Sgt. Luis Camacho, **GUAM NATIONAL GUARD**



Staff Sgt. Matthew Naputi, from the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Security Forces Squadron, is presented with his award during the Guam Air National Guard's Enlisted Awards Banquet on Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort, in Oka, Tamuning, Guam. From left to right are: Chief Master Sgt. John Quinata, GUANG Command Chief; Lt. Col. Esther Aguigui, The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard; Gov. Leon Guerrero; Staff Sgt. Naputi; Mrs. Malani Naputi; Brig. Gen. Johnny Lizama, Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Guam National Guard; State Command Sgt. Major Melchor Hennegan, State Enlisted Advisor; and Col. Graham Botha, Commander, 254th Air Base Group, Guam Air National Guard. **GUAM NATIONAL GUARD**

Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Guam National Guard; State Command Sgt. Major Melchor Hennegan, State Enlisted Advisor; and Col. Graham Botha, Commander, 254th Air Base Group, Guam Air National Guard. Army Guard director to cut ribbon on new facility

The Guam National Guard will officially open its newest multi-million dollar building during a ceremony today, Feb. 4, at 3pm, at the Guard's Barrigada Complex.

Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Kadavy, Ddrector, Army National Guard, will be joined by Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, commander-in-chief of the Guam National Guard, and Lt. Col. Esther Aguigui, GUNG Adjutant General, amongst others, to help cut the ribbon on the new Aircraft Storage Facility.

As director, Lt. Gen. Kadavy guides the formulation, development and implementa-



The Guam Army National Guard will cut the ribbon on its Aviation Storage Facility on Monday, Feb. 4, at the Guard's Readiness Center in Barrigada, which will provide support and maintenance for its

tion of all programs and policies affecting the Army National Guard; a force of over 350,000 soldiers in the 54 states, territories and the District of Columbia.

The contract for the \$4.8-million facility was awarded to APC Construction, LLC, for the design and construction for an Aircraft Storage Facility to support and maintain two helicopters for the Guam Army National Guard.

This project is the first of two phases, but allows the Soldiers of Detachment 2, Delta Company, 1st-224th Aviation (MEDEVAC) to become opdeployed environment.

The facility is approximately 6,200 square feet, is typhoon-rated and includes a helipad and ramp, utility services, information systems, fire detection/alarm systems, roads, walkways, curbs, gutters, storm drainage, parking area and other site improvements.

The project integrates sustainable strategies and features that meet Antiterrorism and Force Protection (ATFP) measures and all other applicable building codes, federal and Department of Defense requirements. It reduces energy consumption and conserves resources while simultaneous-

erational, similar to that of a ly minimizing adverse effects on the environment

> The Guam Guard received two UH-72 Lakota (Medevac) Aircraft in June 2015. The unit's primary mission is medevac operations in support of homeland security and natural disasters. It is also capable of land search and rescue.

With the addition of aviation, in the Guam Guard, as a core capability, the U.S. territory of Guam has increased in preparedness, response time, and overall security for U.S. Citizens in times of increased regional security threats and the ever- unpredictable threat of natural disasters. (PR)

14 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Business

Set against a shaky global picture, US economy looks sturdy

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. economy, well into its 10th year of growth, still has a spring in its step. And it's all the more visible when set against a tiring global picture.

A robust January jobs report on Friday showed that America's companies are, for now, brushing off an array of economic perils and still hiring at a brisk pace. The risks that for months had induced hand-wringing among economists about a possible looming recession appear to have had little effect on employers.

Overseas growth is stumbling, led by weakness in China, the world's second-largest economy. Europe is hamstrung by a recession in Italy and the potential for an unruly Brexit. A trade war between the U.S. and China and higher U.S. mortgage rates, partly engineered by the Federal Reserve, remain threats.

No matter. Employers added 304,000 jobs in January—the healthiest burst of hiring in nearly a year. The unemployment rate ticked up a notch to a still-low 4 percent. But that was mostly because thousands of furloughed federal workers were considered temporarily unemployed because of the partial government shutdown. That quirk should reverse itself this month.

The solid jobs report and a separate survey that showed Friday that U.S. factory growth picked up last month "stood in stark contrast with evidence of slower economic



momentum in China and Europe," said Lydia Boussour, senior U.S. economist at Oxford Economics.

So why is the United States doing so well? And will the sluggish global economy eventually depress U.S. exports and economic growth?

Trends that had looked alarming a month or two ago now appear benign, perhaps even supportive of growth. The stock market, having plunged 16 percent late last year, rose 8 percent in January,

its best monthly performance since 2015. Americans who are invested in stocks typically cut spending when market indexes fall steadily. That is now less likely to happen.

And suddenly the Fed under Chairman Jerome Powell looks like an economic ally. The central bank had raised its benchmark short-term interest rate four times last year—action that helped make mortgages and other consumer and business loans costlier. And in December, the Fed's

policymakers said they envisioned raising rates twice more this year.

But this week, the Fed held its benchmark rate steady and sent its strongest signal to date that it saw no need to raise rates in the coming months—perhaps even for the rest of the year. Its message ignited a rally on Wall Street, which cheered the prospect of continued modest borrowing rates for the near future.

Other factors have helped give the U.S. economy an

In this Jan. 3, 2019, file photo an employment sign hangs from a wooden fence on the property of a McDonald's restaurant in Atlantic Highlands, N.J.

edge over most of its major rivals. Ethan Harris, global economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, said the Trump administration's tax cuts in late 2017 and a sharp increase in government spending last spring helped fuel growth.

"No other major economy in the world did what we did," Harris said. "The stimulus did a very good job of covering up all the blemishes of the economy, including the risks of the trade war."

Vigorous U.S. hiring in the past few months partly represents a "lagged effect" from faster growth over the spring and summer, Harris said. Businesses that weren't able to quickly find and hire all the workers they wanted then have kept adding jobs in subsequent months.

Starbucks faces tricky time as ex-CEO mulls presidential run

DETROIT (AP)—For Starbucks, former CEO Howard Schultz is a hero—and a headache.

Schultz spent more than 30 years at Starbucks, growing a handful of coffee shops into a global brand. But now as the billionaire mulls running for president as an independent, the company will have to tread carefully.

Some Democrats fear Schultz could tip the 2020 election to President Donald Trump by splitting their vote. But he could also turn off conservatives who will be reminded of his support for gay marriage or his 2017 pledge to hire 10,000 refugees.

"I wouldn't be panicked if I was Starbucks. But it's not ideal. You're muddying up the water," said Americus Reed, a marketing professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School.

Schultz served at the company's helm from 1986 to 2000 and again from 2008 to

2017. He stepped down from his role as executive chairman in June and still owns Starbucks shares.

His public consideration of a presidential run has already cost Starbucks some customers. Aruna D'Souza, a writer from Williamstown, Massachusetts, was a regular until Schultz made his announcement. She said the company will no longer get her business because of his "pro-billionaire, anti-worker Republican talking points." She's buying a new espresso maker instead.

But others like Jacob Wilentz, a student at Vanderbilt University in Nashville who goes to Starbucks almost every day, are able to separate the man from the business.

"I'm very grateful for Starbucks, but that would not necessarily influence me to vote for the CEO," he said.

For now, Starbucks' cheerful Facebook and Twitter feeds are focused on promoting the company's latest latte concoction. But it shared with media a letter CEO Kevin Johnson sent to employees this week after Schultz's announcement.

"Howard has moved forward to the next chapter of his life, where he has expressed an interest in public service, and potentially public office. Whatever he decides, it is my personal belief that Howard will continue to make a positive impact on the lives he touches, and I wish him well," Johnson wrote.

Employees may be asked if they support Shultz's candidacy, Johnson said, but he reminded them to respect the diverse opinions of Starbucks' customers.

"As a company, we don't get involved in national political campaigns," he said.

Starbucks has nonetheless been the target of political pushback. Conservatives have slammed the company for matching employees' donations to Planned Parenthood. And liberal groups such as the Center for American Progress say they will organize a boycott if Schultz runs.

The impact of a boycott could be limited, judging from the ones that have been staged against the company in the past.

The only boycott that appeared to have any real financial effect, according to Bernstein senior analyst Sara Senatore, was in April, when two black men were arrested for sitting at a Philadelphia Starbucks without ordering anything. But that one was hard to measure because Starbucks also closed its U.S. stores for a day for racial bias training in response to the incident, Senatore said.

Reed thinks customers who actually boycott over Schultz will be rare.

"It's easy to jump on the Twittersphere. But it's a different proposition to say, 'I am going to inconvenience myself because I am so upset," he said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Sri Lanka seeks \$1 billion loan from China amid debt woes

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

(AP)-Sri Lanka is negotiating a \$1 billion loan from China to construct a highway linking the capital Colombo to the hilly resort city of Kandy, even as the heavily-indebted South Asian island nation makes arrangements to pay down \$5.9 billion in foreign loans this year. Finance Ministry spokesman M.R. Hasan said Saturday that he's waiting to hear whether terms of the loan for the highway project have been approved. A large chunk of Sri Lanka's foreign debt is from China, which sees Sri Lanka as a key link in its transcontinental Belt and Road infrastructure initiative. President Maithripala Sirisena's government had criticized the previous administration of strongman Mahinda Rajapaksa for leading the country into a Chinese debt trap. However, the government has turned to China to help relieve economic pressures.

Hundreds protest in Germany against ban on older diesel cars

BERLIN (AP)—German police say around 800 people have demonstrated in the southwestern city of Stuttgart against a new ban on driving older diesel cars. Stuttgart, a German auto industry center, on Jan. 1 became the first major German city to introduce a large-scale ban on driving

older diesel cars with looser emissions standards. The move aims to fight air pollution but critics say they don't have money to buy new cars. The dpa news agency reported that nearly half of Saturday's demonstrators wore yellow vests, a reference to anti-government protests in neighboring France that began with protests against a fuel tax hike. Various diesel bans have been introduced or are upcoming in several other German cities. The protests in Stuttgart started three weeks ago.

Businessman gives \$5 million gift to children's heart center CHARLESTON, S.C

(AP)—A businessman has given \$5 million to the Medical University of South Carolina to go toward a heart center at a new children's hospital set to open this fall. Hospital officials said in honor of Gene Reed Jr.'s gift, they will name the floor with the children's heart program after him when the MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital opens. Reed says he gave the gift because he thinks it is a once in a lifetime chance to help some of the most vulnerable patients at the children's hospital. Hospital CEO Patrick Cawley says the gift is critical to help MUSC continue its heart treatment program founded in the late 1980s. Reed has already donated more than \$250,000 to the hospital over two decades.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019 **15** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Nation

Gov. Northam says he wasn't in racist photo, won't resign

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)— Resisting widespread calls for his resignation, Virginia's embattled governor on Saturday pledged to remain in office after disavowing a blatantly racist photograph that appeared under his name in his 1984 medical school yearbook.

In a tumultuous 24 hours, Gov. Ralph Northam on Friday apologized for appearing in a photograph that featured what appeared to be a man in blackface and a second person cloaked in Ku Klux Klan garb. In a video posted on Twitter, he said he could not "undo the harm my behavior caused then and today."

But by Saturday, he reversed course and said the racist photo on his yearbook profile page did not feature him after all. The governor said he had not seen the photo before Friday, since he had not purchased the commemorative book or been involved in its preparation more than three decades ago.

"It has taken time for me to make sure that it's not me, but I am convinced. I am convinced that I am not in that picture," he told reporters gathered at the Executive Mansion in Richmond, calling the shot offensive and horrific.

While talking with reporters, Northam admitted that he had previously worn blackface around that time, saying he once had used shoe polish to

Powerful storm hits Southern California, flooding highways

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The second in a string of powerful storms battered California on Saturday, shutting key highways after water and mud rushed into lanes from bare hillsides in wildfire burn areas where thousands of residents were under evacuation orders.

Flash flood warnings were issued for huge swaths of Southern California and forecasters said the system brought more than 4 inches (10 centimeters) of rain at lower elevations and several feet of snow in the mountains, where whiteout conditions closed roads.

A wind gust in Santa Barbara County topped 80 mph (128 kph) as the storm moved south and at one point dropped more than a half-inch (1.27 centimeters) of rain in five minutes. Trees and power lines were down across the region.

In Malibu, where the Woolsey fire last year destroyed homes and burned hillsides bare, officials closed Pacific Coast Highway and many other roadways after mud carried trees and rocks into lanes.



darken his face as part of a Michael Jackson costume he fashioned for a 1984 dance contest in San Antonio, Texas, when he was in the U.S. Army. Northam said he regrets that he didn't understand "the harmful legacy of an action like that."

His refusal to step down could signal a potentially long and bruising fight between

Residents whose homes survived the flames barricaded their properties with sandbags to protect their properties from floodwaters.

Carol Cavella was evacuated during the November fire and again Saturday when the creek behind her house threatened to overflow and inundate her backyard.

The 86-year-old put her cat in the car and drove to a coffee shop on higher ground, son-in-law, Warren Bowman said.

"She does not scare easily, but she got a little scared watching that water rise,' Bowman said. He was trying to convince her to come to his house in Los Angeles but she said she'd rather wait to see if the waters recede and she can return home.

The California Department of Transportation said Saturday night in a tweet that the both the northbound southbound lanes of U.S. 101, a vital route between Los Angeles and points north and west, have been reopened. Earlier Saturday, in the Montecito

Northam and his former supporters, which includes virtually all of the state's Democratic establishment.

After he spoke, both of Virginia's U.S. senators said they called Northam to tell him that he must resign. In a joint statement Saturday night, Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine and the dean of Virginia's con-

area of Santa Barbara County, several miles of U.S 101 were closed because of flooding.

Elsewhere in the county, evacuations were ordered or recommended for neighborhoods near the Thomas, Whittier and Sherpa fire scars.

"This is a dangerous situation," the National Weather Service said, warning that the high rates of rain could send boulders sluicing down denuded hillsides along with the mud and debris.

It has only been a little over a year since a downpour on the huge Thomas Fire burn scar unleashed a massive debris flow that destroyed or damaged hundreds of homes in the seaside community of Montecito. The disaster killed 21 people, and two others have never been found.

Rescue crews scrambled Saturday to pluck motorists from cars caught in rising waters, said Mike Eliason, a spokesman for the Santa Barbara County Fire Department. He urged drivers who come upon flooded intersections to find alternate routes.

gressional delegation, Rep. Bobby Scott, said the recent events "have inflicted immense pain and irrevocably broken the trust Virginians must have in their leaders."

Since Friday, groups calling for his resignation included the Virginia Democratic Party and the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus. Virginia Attornev General Mark R. Herring, a Democrat, and top Republicans in the Virginia General Assembly also urged Northam to resign, as have many declared and potential Democratic presidential candidates.

"He is no longer the best person to lead our state," the Virginia Senate Democratic Caucus said in a statement.

If Northam does resign, Virginia Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax would become the second African-American governor Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, left, gestures as his wife, Pam, listens during a news conference in the Governors Mansion at the Capitol in Richmond, Va., Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019.

in the state's history. In a statement, Fairfax said the state needs leaders who can unite people, but he stopped short of calling for Northam's departure. Referring to Northam, Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax said he "cannot condone actions from his past" that at least "suggest a comfort with Virginia's darker history of white supremacy, racial stereotyping and intimidation."

Northam conceded Saturday that people might have difficulty believing his shifting statements.

He was pushed repeatedly by reporters to explain why he issued an apology Friday if he wasn't in the photograph.

"My first intention ... was to reach out and apologize," he said, adding that he recognized that people would be offended by the photo. But after studying the picture and consulting with classmates, Northam said, "I am convinced that is not my picture."

Walt Broadnax, one of two black students who graduated from Eastern Virginia Medical School with Northam, said by phone Saturday he also didn't buy the class's 1984 yearbook or see it until decades after it was published.

US sees limitations on reuniting migrant families

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The Trump administration says it would require extraordinary effort to reunite what may be thousands of migrant children who have been separated from their parents and, even if it could, the children would likely be emotionally harmed.

Jonathan White, who leads the Health and Human Services Department's efforts to reunite migrant children with their parents, said removing children from "sponsor" homes to rejoin their parents "would present grave child welfare concerns He said the government should focus on reuniting children currently in its custody, not those who have already been released to sponsors.

"It would destabilize the permanency of their existing home environment, and could be traumatic to the children," White said in a court filing late Friday, citing his years of experience working with unaccompanied migrant children and background as a social worker.

The administration outlined its position in a court-ordered response to a government watchdog report last month that found many more migrant children may have been split from their families than previously reported. The government didn't adequately track separated children before a federal judge in San Diego ruled in June that children in its custody be reunited with their parents.

It is unknown how many families were split under a longstanding policy that allows separation under certain circumstances, such as serious criminal charges against a parent, concerns over the health and welfare of a child or medical concerns.

Ann Maxwell, Health and Human Services' assistant inspector general for evaluations, said last month that the number of separated children was certainly larger than the 2,737 listed by the government in court documents. The department's inspector general report didn't have a

precise count, but Maxwell said staff estimated it to be in the thousands.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which wants U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw's order to apply to children who were released to sponsors before his June 26 ruling, criticized the government's position. A hearing is scheduled Feb. 21.

"The Trump administration's response is a shocking concession that it can't easily find thousands of children it ripped from parents, and doesn't even think it's worth the time to locate each of them," said Lee Gelernt, the lead ACLU attorney.

Last spring, then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions said anyone crossing the border illegally would be criminally prosecuted, leading to widespread family separations. President Donald Trump retreated amid an international outcry, days before the San Diego judge ordered that families be reunited

16 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Asia

Bangladesh sues Manila-based bank in NY over heist

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Bangladesh's central bank has filed a lawsuit in a New York court against a Philippine bank, seeking damages and the return of \$81 million stolen from its account with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in 2016, an official said Friday.

Abu Hena Mohd. Rajee Hassan, head of Bangladesh Bank's Finance Intelligence Unit, confirmed that the case was filed in the Southern District Court of New York against Manila-based Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., or RCBC.

"Yes, we have done it online through a firm there and it has been accepted," Hassan said. "Our next procedures will follow accordingly as we want our money back. This is our people's precious money," he said.

Court documents say hackers from North Korea used fraudulent orders on the SWIFT payments system to steal the money. The money was sent to accounts at the Philippines' bank and then vanished into the casino industry in the Philippines. The complaint says the funds' ultimate destination remains unclear.

Bangladesh Bank is seeking the \$81 million plus damages and legal costs.

RCBC issued a statement saying it was aware of the case



and had hired a prestigious law firm, Quinn Emanuel to lead its defense.

The lead attorney on the case, Tai-Heng Cheng, issued a statement describing the lawsuit as a "thinly veiled PR campaign" and "baseless."

"Not only are the allegations false, they don't have the right to file here since none of the defendants are in the U.S.," Cheng said in the statement. "We will show this suit is nothing more than a political stunt by the Bangladesh Bank to try to shift blame from themselves to RCBC."

The heist was a major embarrassment for Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as the opposition criticized her administration for failing to protect public money. The thencentral bank governor Atiur Rahman resigned and Hasina ordered an investigation.

Citing case documents, Hassan said the complaint accuses the Philippine bank of following fraudulent procedures at every step.

The hackers broken into Bangladesh Bank's system and created 70 orders to the Federal Reserve Bank amounting to \$1.94 billion. Of that amount, \$101 million was released.

The hackers sent \$81 million to the RCBC's branch in Manila and the rest, \$20 million went to Sri Lanka, which has returned the money to Bangladesh.

The Philippines later returned \$14.54 million but the rest is yet to be retrieved.

In this March 31, 2016, file photo provided by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, from left; Second Secretary of the Bangladesh Embassy in Manila Probash Lamarong, Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) Director Julia Bacay-Abad and AMLC Member Emmanuel Dooc opens a case containing US dollars that was returned by Chinese casino junket operator Kam Sin Wong to Bangladesh and Philippine AMLC officials in Manila, Philippines.

The complaint against RCBC names 23 people by name, including Filipino and Chinese citizens and cites another 25 unnamed "John Does" as defendants.

The money trail laid out in the court filing ends with it disappearing into casinos and gambling junkets in the Philippines, and to its "ultimate destination, which has yet to be uncovered."

All of the defendants "had a single unlawful purpose: to defraud, steal and launder funds stolen from the bank," it says.

The filing asserts that RCBC made potentially hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars from the fraudulent transactions allegedly conducted through its accounts and that various employees gained substantial sums through their alleged involvement.

PH troops battle Muslim militants after church blast

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops clashed with Abu Sayyaf gunmen in fierce jungle fighting that left five soldiers and three militants dead, as the military pushed forward with a fresh offensive following a deadly church bombing last weekend.

President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered government forces to destroy the Abu Sayyaf after the bombing last Sunday of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral in the Sulu provincial capital of Jolo that killed 22 people and wounded more than 100. The attack has renewed terrorism fears across the Philippines, where the national police went on full alert and security has been strengthened in churches, shopping malls and other public areas.

Regional military spokesman Col. Gerry Besana said another five soldiers and 15 militants were wounded in nearly two hours of fighting Saturday between the army and about 150 Islamic State group-linked fighters in the jungles near Patikul town.

The militants were led by Abu Sayyaf commander Hat-sian nationals in the attack. ib Hajan Sawadjaan, who is suspected of helping plot the bombing. The Abu Sayyaf, which has about 300 to 400 armed fighters, has been blacklisted by the United States and the Philippines as a terrorist organization because of years of bombings, kidnappings and beheadings in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

Government forces have over the years pressed on sporadic offensives to crush the group, including in Jolo, a poverty-wracked island of more than 700,000 people where Muslims are the majority. A few thousand Catholics live mostly in the provincial capital.

Since the church attack, the air force has launched airstrikes on suspected militant bases near Patikul and police killed a suspected militant on a raid in the city.

Duterte told reporters earlier this week that the church bombing was a suicide attack carried out by a militant couple.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Ano said Friday that an Indonesian couple was responsible for the bombing aimed at fomenting sectarian conflict in the south. The Indonesian man reportedly used the nom de guerre Abu Huda and Philippine authorities said they would coordinate with their Indonesian counterparts to try to validate the identities of the two.

Indonesian Foreign Ministry spokesman Arrmanatha Nasir said the government had not been able to confirm the involvement of Indone-

There has been speculation that the bombing may be a diversionary move by Muslim militants after troops recently carried out an offensive that killed a number of IS-linked extremists in an encampment in the hinterlands of Lanao del Sur province, also in the south. The area is near Marawi, a Muslim city that was besieged for five months in 2017 by hundreds of IS-aligned militants, including foreign fighters.

Australia says last child refugees to leave Nauru camp

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia announced on Sunday that the last child refugees held on the Pacific atoll of Nauru will soon be sent to the United States, ending the banishment of children under the government's harsh asylum-seeker policy.

The psychiatric and physical suffering of children has been the major criticism of the government's policy since 2013 to send asylum seekers who attempt to reach Australia by boat to an immigration camp on Nauru or men-only facilities on Papua New Guinea.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the last four asylumseeker children on Nauru would soon be resettled with their families in the United States under a deal struck in the final months of President Barack Obama's administration.

"Every asylum seeker child has now been removed from Nauru or has had their claim processed and has a clear path off the island," Morrison said in a statement.

The United States agreed in 2016 to accept up to 1,250 refugees. More than 1,000 others remain on the islands and face uncertain futures.

Law firm Maurice Blackburn said it would continue its legal fight until all asylum seekers were removed from the island camps.

"This action has taken far too long and at times has been very hard fought - in the last year alone we have had to take court action repeatedly to help secure the medical evacuation of 26 critically ill people on Nauru with many of these children, including some as young as six months old," lawyer Jennifer Kanis said in a statement.

"In many of those cases, the delay in access to medical treatment has risked serious and life-threatening consequences for the children and adults concerned," she added.

In 2017, the Australian government reached a settlement of around 90 million Australian dollars (\$68 million) with more than 1,900 asylum seekers who sued over their treatment at an immigration camp in Papua New Guinea.

The all-men asylum seekers were seeking damages in the Victoria state Supreme Court for alleged physical and psychological injuries they say they suffered as a result of the conditions on the Manus Island camp, as well as for false imprisonment following a Papua New Guinea court ruling that their detention was unconstitutional.

When Morrison took office in an internal government leadership ballot in August, there were 109 asylum seeker children on Nauru.

Australia has all but ended the people-smuggling traffic from Southeast Asian ports since it announced that any asylum seekers who attempt reach Australian shores by boat from July 19, 2013, would never be allowed to settle in Australia.

Pressure has mounted on the government to make an excep-

tion for children, but some government lawmakers argue that would only encourage asylum seekers to put children at risk by bringing them on treacherous voyages to Australia on rickety fishing boats.

Immigration Minister David Coleman said families with children who had been brought to Australia from Nauru would not be allowed to stay.

"The important principle ... is that permanent resettlement in Australia is not available to people who arrived unlawfully by boat and that people who arrived unlawfully by boat will be resettled in third countries," Coleman told reporters.

Richard di Natale, leader of the minor Greens party, welcomed the children's removal from Nauru, but said it was long overdue.

"They've been languishing there for years and years," di Natale told Sky News television. "These are kids that will have years of counselling ahead of them."

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019 **17** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

World

Russia to pull plug on nuclear arms pact after US does same

MOSCOW (AP)—Following in the footsteps of the U.S., Russia will abandon a centerpiece nuclear arms treaty but will only deploy intermediate-range nuclear missiles if Washington does so, President Vladimir Putin said Saturday.

President Donald Trump accused Moscow on Friday of violating the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty with "impunity" by deploying banned missiles. Trump said in a statement that the U.S. will "move forward" with developing its own military response options to Russia's new land-based cruise missiles that could target Western Europe.

Moscow has strongly denied any breaches and accused Washington of making false accusations in order to justify its pullout.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, in explaining that Washington on Saturday formally suspended its treaty obligations, said in a statement that Russia's "continued noncompliance has jeopardized the United States' supreme interests." He said the treaty will terminate in six months unless Moscow returns to "full and verifiable compliance."

The collapse of the INF Treaty has raised fears of a repeat of a Cold War showdown in the 1980s, when the U.S. and the Soviet Union both deployed intermediate-range missiles on the continent.



Such weapons were seen as particularly destabilizing as they only take a few minutes to reach their targets, leaving no time for decision-makers and raising the likelihood of a global nuclear conflict over a false launch warning.

After the U.S. gave notice of its intention to withdraw, Putin said Russia would do the same. He ordered the development of new land-based intermediate-range weapons, but

emphasized that Russia won't deploy them in the European part of the country or elsewhere unless the U.S. does so.

"We will respond quid pro quo," Putin said. "Our American partners have announced they were suspending their participation in the treaty, and we will do the same. They have announced they will conduct research and development, and we will act accordingly."

Venezuela's Guaido urges military defections amid protests

racas and other cities. Guaido called on "blocks" of the military to defect from Maduro's administration and "get on the side of the Venezuelan people."

reconstruction of Venezuela."

days, the opposition would try to move humanitarian aid into the country by land and sea along three border points. including the Colombian city of Cucuta. He described the move as a "test" for Venezuela's armed forces, which will have to choose if they allow the much needed aid to pass, or if they instead obey the orders of Maduro's government.

Maduro also dug in his heels, insisting he was the only president of Venezuela and describing Saturday's anti-government protests as part of a U.S.-led coup attempt.

power of the country be relegitimized and that we hold free elections with guarantees, and the people choose a new National Assembly," Maduro said at a pro-government dem-

National Assembly while government supporters control the more-powerful Constituent Assembly, so calls for a vote to replace the former and not the latter was seen as a move against Guaido.

The socialist leader also had

emperor of the world?" he asked Trump. "Do you think Venezuela is going to give up and obey your orders? We will not surrender."

The U.S. has accused Russia of developing and deploying a cruise missile that violates provisions of the pact that ban production, testing and deployment of landbased cruise and ballistic missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 kilometers (310 to 3,410 miles). Trump's move also reflected his administration's view that the pact was an obstacle to efforts needed to counter intermediate-range missiles deployed by China, which isn't part of the treaty.

NATO allies have strongly backed Washington and urged Moscow to save the treaty by returning to compliance.

Russia has rejected the U.S. claims of violation, charging that the missile, which is part of the Iskander-M missile system, has a maximum range of 480 kilometers (298 miles). Russian officials claimed the U.S. assertions about the alleged breach of the pact by Moscow were intended to shift the blame for the pact's demise to Russia.

The Russian Defense Ministry on Saturday released a satellite image of what it described as new production facilities at the U.S. missile maker Raytheon's plant in Tucson, Arizona, noting that their expansion began in 2017 as the Congress authorized spending for the development of intermediate-range missiles.

"The character and the timing of the works provide an irrefutable proof that the U.S. administration had decided to pull out of the INF treaty years before making unfounded claims of Russian violations," it said.

Putin has argued it makes no sense for Russia to deploy a ground-based cruise missile violating the treaty because it has such weapons on ships and aircraft, which aren't banned by the pact.

WORLD BRIEFS

French yellow vest protesters condemn injuries, blame police

PARIS (AP)—France's yellow vest protesters were back on the streets Saturday to keep up the pressure on French President Emmanuel Macron's government and to decry the number of people being injured by police during the antigovernment demonstrations. Multiple protests in Paris and other cities denounced Macron's economic policies, which they view as favoring the rich, for the 12th straight weekend of demonstrations. Most were peaceful. In Paris, scuffles broke out between some protesters and police around the Republic plaza, northeast of the city center, where hundreds of demonstrators headed on Saturday afternoon. Police managed to disperse most of the crowd. Some clashes between protesters and police also took place in the southern cities of Bordeaux, Toulouse and Valence.

Salvadoran front-runner seeks to end decades of 2-party rule

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP)—Salvadorans will choose Sunday from among a handful of presidential candidates all promising to end corruption, stamp out gang violence and create more jobs with the front-runner hoping to end three decades of two-party rule in the country. The Central American Institute of Fiscal Studies, a think tank based in Guatemala, found great similarities in the four candidates' proposals. Top of the agenda is public safety: roughly 67,000 Salvadorans belong to gangs that terrorize their communities via extortion, murder and other forms of violence. The candidates have touched on ways to generate economic opportunities and restore social values to dissuade Salvadorans from engaging in criminal behavior. Leading in the polls is Nayib Bukele, the former mayor of the capital, San Salvador. Bukele has campaigned on promises to create a commission to tackle impunity and corruption. He also proposes taxing property and idle agricultural land, levying higher taxes on luxury goods and combating tax evasion. An election of Bukele, 37, would put an end to decades of two-party rule in El Salvador.

Central African Republic, 14 armed groups reach peace deal

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—A peace deal has been reached between the Central African Republic government and 14 armed groups after their first-ever direct dialogue aimed at ending years of conflict, the United Nations and African Union announced on Saturday. The peace deal represents rare hope for the impoverished, landlocked nation where interreligious and intercommunal fighting has continued since 2013. Thousands of people have been killed and hundreds of thousands displaced in a conflict that has sent two people to the International Criminal Court. "I am determined to work with the president and his government to address the concerns of our brothers who took up arms," said Central African Republic's Cabinet director Firmin Ngrebada, according to the U.N. The parties on Sunday will sign a draft of the agreement, which focuses on power-sharing and transitional justice. Sudan's state media reported, citing Sudan's chief negotiator Atta al-Manan. The final deal is expected to be signed on Wednesday. Talks began Jan. 24 in Khartoum.

CARACAS, Venezuela

(AP)—Venezuela's opposition leader called on more members of the military to abandon the country's socialist government following Saturday's defection of a high-ranking general, while President Nicolas Maduro proposed holding early National Assembly elections that could potentially oust his challenger.

Maduro's call for early legislative voting is likely to intensify his standoff with rival Juan Guaido, who heads the opposition-controlled National Assembly and is demanding a new presidential election. Guaido declared himself Venezuela's legitimate ruler on Jan. 23, and has the support of Washington and most South American nations.

Speaking from behind a podium decorated with Venezuela's presidential seal, Guaido told supporters he would keep his opposition movement in the streets until Maduro stopped "usurping" the presidency and agreed to a presidential election overseen

by international observers. On Saturday, tens of thousands of Venezuelans joined opposition protests against Maduro in Ca-

"We don't just want you to stop shooting at protesters," Guaido said in a hoarse voice. "We want you to be part of the

He said that in the coming

"I agree that the legislative onstration in Caracas.

The opposition controls the

words for the administration of President Donald Trump which recently imposed sanctions on Venezuelan oil exports in an effort to undermine Maduro's main source of income and weaken his grip on power.

"Do you think you are the

18 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Focus

By DAVID A. LIEB

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)—In the first week of 2019, an investigation by Oregon's labor agency deemed the state Capitol to be a hostile workplace because of an unchecked pattern of sexual harassment among lawmakers.

A few days later, two Washington state lawmakers accused of sexual misconduct resigned. Then came new allegations of sexual wrongdoing in Georgia, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, where a veteran male lawmaker was accused of groping a newly elected female colleague during a pre-session reception.

'We've heard for a long time that this is the culture in the building, and then of course we get there and it immediately surfaces," said Massachusetts state Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa, a firsttime lawmaker.

Barely a month into the 2019 legislative sessions, it already is clear that the #MeToo movement was not a one-year phenomenon in many state capitols. New claims of sexual misconduct are continuing to be made public concerning actions ranging from a few weeks ago to many years ago.

The latest came Friday, when Montana legislative leaders revealed that a previously unpublicized allegation of sexual harassment helped drive their current push to update policies on harassment, discrimination and retaliation.

Although half of all state legislative chambers updated their sexual harassment policies last year, an Associated Press review found that many are still looking to make changes this year.

Some states are taking their first steps since the October 2017 media reports alleging sexual misconduct against movie mogul Harvey Weinstein sparked a national movement of people coming forward with accounts of sexual assault or harassment. In other states, lawmakers and women's advocates are looking to take the second or third steps in what they say is a long trek toward changing attitudes and behaviors.

Sabadosa is sponsoring legislation that would create an independent commission to investigate complaints of workplace harassment by Massachusetts lawmakers. She said a House rule change adopted last year didn't go far enough when it created a new staff position for an equal employment opportunity officer to investigate complaints.

"It feels important for the first-year class to come in



is enough, that culture needs to end and we're going to be the people to make sure that it happens," she said.

Across the country, at least 90 state lawmakers have resigned or been removed from office, faced discipline or other repercussions, or been publicly accused of sexual misconduct since the beginning of 2017, according to an ongoing tally by The Associated Press. Sexual misconduct allegations also have toppled high-ranking executive branch officials, including Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler.

More than a half-dozen members of the U.S. Congress accused of sexual misconduct also resigned. A new federal law that took effect in January extended sexual harassment protections to congressional interns, gave victims access to confidential advisers and made lawmakers personally liable for financial settlements stemming from harassment or

An AP review last August found that about half of the 99 state legislative chambers had updated their own sexual harassment policies since the #MeToo movement began (Nebraska has just a single legislative chamber). The most common response was to boost their own training about sexual harassment, typically by making it mandatory or providing it more frequently. Only a few legislatures passed measures that apply to privatesector workers.

Indiana legislators passed a law last year requiring them to take at least one hour of sexual harassment training annually and creating a committee to develop new sexual harassment policies.

In January, the House and Senate followed through by adopting policies expressly forbidding unwanted sexual advances and retaliation against those who make complaints. The policies also ban any sexual contact between lawmakers and interns.

The new Indiana policies

come after a year in which the state attorney general and House speaker both were named in sexual misconduct allegations, which they denied.

"We want to make sure people understand we realize the importance of these issues," said Republican Sen. Liz Brown, an attorney who helped draft the new rules.

Brown, who is chairwoman of the Senate's ethics committee, said the rules were "thoroughly vetted and very thoroughly researched," protect confidentiality and provide flexibility for legislative investigators to get outside help if needed.

But Jennifer Drobac, an Indiana University law professor who has written a textbook on sexual harassment law, described the new policies as disappointing. She said they use outdated definitions of sexual harassment, require a higher standard of proof than most civil cases and fail to require an outside investigation of complaints.

"What they have adopted is a late-20th century, lukewarm

approach to the problem," Drobac said. "It's not committed, it's not rigorous, it's not up to date, and it does not instill confidence in my mind."

lawmakers

#MeToo

In this Aug. 20, 2018 photo, Massachusetts state Rep. Lindsay

Sabadosa, D-Hampshire, speaks during an interview in Springfield,

Mass. Allegations that an incumbent male state lawmaker grabbed

the backside of a newly elected female lawmaker during a pre-ses-

sion reception prompted Sabadosa and another freshmen female

lawmaker to sponsor legislation that would create an independent

commission to investigate complaints of workplace harassment by

Other states also have received both praise and criticism for their responses to sexual harassment.

The Missouri House generally was praised for working with the nonprofit Women's Foundation to rewrite its sexual harassment policies after a House speaker resigned in May 2015 while acknowledging he had sent sexually suggestive text messages to a Capitol intern.

This past week, the House revised its policies again, allowing its ethics committee to close preliminary hearings that were previously public. Although some lawmakers objected to the potential secrecy, others said it's intended to protect victims.

'Preliminary hearings, particularly involving sexual assault and harassment, should be not politicized," said Democratic Rep. Gina Mitten, who supported the change.

As one of his first acts in office, Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, a Republican, issued an executive order that strengthened the sexual harassment reporting processes and mandated training for executive branch employees.

But that same day, the Republican-led Georgia Senate changed its rules to make it harder to bring some sexual harassment complaints. The new rules require misconduct complaints against senators and staff to be made within two years of the incident, raise the burden of proof for investigations to go forward from "reasonable grounds" to "sub-

stantial credible evidence," require accusers to keep complaints confidential and allow penalties against those who publicize complaints or make frivolous claims.

The changes came as Republican state Sen. Renee Unterman, who was removed from a committee leadership post, publicly declared that "in the last couple of weeks, I have had sexual harassment against me." Unterman has not provided any specific details about her allegations.

Other states have moved in the opposite direction on transparency.

The Massachusetts Senate this past week amended its rules to prohibit nondisclosure agreements, which have been used in some states to keep sexual harassment settlements secret.

In Oregon, House and Senate leaders facing a civil rights complaint over the alleged culture of harassment have pledged a variety of improved policies. One bill would establish an "equity office" to conduct outreach programs and investigate complaints. Another would allow courts to temporarily exclude an elected official from the Capitol, if a judge determines that the person's presence creates a hostile environment.

Legislative chambers in Idaho, Louisiana and North Dakota already have enacted updated sexual harassment policies for 2019. The New Hampshire House voted overwhelmingly in January to make sexual harassment training mandatory, although some male lawmakers said that carried an insulting implication that all lawmakers were harassers.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019 19

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by



HEALTH — IS — WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation



By NANCI HELLMICH

esearch shows regular physical activity helps control weight and reduces the risk of heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, depression, some cancers and many other medical conditions. But 79% of U.S. adults don't meet government exercise guidelines.

Those guidelines call for at least 2½ hours a week of moderate-intensity aerobic activity (such as brisk walking) or an hour and 15 minutes a week of vigorous aerobic activity (jogging). We also need muscle-building activities two or more days a week.

"It amazes me that given all the well-known benefits of physical activity, so few Americans choose to be regularly active," says Tim Church, of Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge. "The most powerful thing you can do for your health is become active."

Try these ideas to boost your weekly activity to $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours:

- Take a brisk walk for 30 minutes five days a week and lift weights two days a week.
- Run for 25 minutes on three days; lift weights on two days.
- Bike indoors or outdoors for 30 minutes on three days; play 60 minutes of softball one day; use weight machines on two days.
- Walk briskly for 30 minutes on two days; go dancing for an hour; do yardwork for 30 minutes; do heavy gardening on two days.
- Do aerobic dance for 30 minutes one day; run 30 minutes one day; walk briskly for 30 minutes one day; do sit-ups, push-ups three days.
- Play doubles tennis for 45 minutes on two days; lift weights one day; hike vigorously and rock-climb for 30 minutes one day.



Eating right before bed will not make you gain weight, study suggests

By NAJJA PARKER
THE ATLANTA JOURNAL CONST

Do you avoid eating a meal right before bed to maintain your health? You may not need to do that, according to a new report.

Researchers from the Graduate School of Health Sciences at Okayama University in Japan recently conducted a study, published in BMJ Nutrition, Prevention and Health, to explore whether leaving a two-hour gap between the last meal of the day and bedtime increases your blood glucose level. High blood glucose is associated with weight gain, diabetes and heart disease.

For the assessment, the team examined 1,573 healthy middle-aged and older adults from western Japan. They then assessed the subjects' diets as well as other lifestyle factors such as their physical activity; weight; and smoking and drinking habits.

The scientists also monitored the participants' HbA1c levels, which indicates the blood glucose levels of individuals over the long-term.

After analyzing the results, they found HbA1c levels did not change significantly over the course of the three-year study. In fact, the numbers remained normal.

Furthermore, they also could not attribute the slight rise to eating before bed.

"Weight, blood pressure, blood fats, physical activity levels, smoking and drinking seemed to be more strongly associated with changes in HbA1c levels rather than the interval between eating and sleeping," the authors wrote in a statement.

The analysts did acknowledge their trial was observational. Therefore, they could not establish causation. They also noted Japanese cuisine includes lots of vegetables and small portions, which may be different from other nations.

Despite the limitations, they do believe their findings are significant. They concluded that "more attention should be paid to healthy portions and food components, getting adequate sleep and avoiding smoking, alcohol consumption, and overweight, as these variables had a more profound influence on the metabolic process.

Personal Trainer

Two kinds of whole-body training

Whole-body physical training is psychologically satisfying, it seldom causes injuries and it can produce a wide variety of benefits.

Pilates training

- Based on teachings of Joseph Pilates (1880-1967)
- Originally used to give dancers strength without making muscles bulky

Improves

- Strength Posture
- Flexibility
- Body awareness
- Balance Coordination





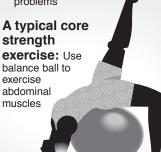
A typical Pilates exercise: Focus on body alignment and breathing while pulling on elastic

Core strength training

- Focuses on hips, abdomen and torso—the body's muscular
- Core muscles stabilize the spine and pelvis and let the arms and legs move safely, efficiently



- Reduces movement habits that can cause injuries
- Helps correct posture problems



Source: American Council

© 2011 MCT Graphic: Paul Trap



Eating right before bed may not contribute to weight gain, a new study suggests, though it may still lead to crumbs in your sheets.

20 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Life & Style

Bryce Dallas Howard roasted by Harvard theater troupe

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)-Venerable Harvard theater troupe Hasty Pudding honored actor, director and producer Bryce Dallas Howard as its Woman of the Year and unveiled its first performance with women cast members Thursday.

In keeping with the quirky traditions of the nation's oldest collegiate theatrical organization, the 37-year old "Jurassic World" star was paraded through Harvard Square surrounded by extravagantly costumed performers then roasted by the young cast and handed a golden pudding pot.

"For some of the smartest people on the planet, you're totally bananas," Howard said on stage. "This is a blast. I'll never forget this as long as I live. And please, accept my children to Harvard."

Afterward, she told reporters she was grateful to be a part of the historic performance. "It's about time," Howard said.

The troupe announced last year it would end its policy of casting men only, which female students have protested in recent years by signing up and taking part in auditions anyway.

"One of great things about



Actor Bryce Dallas Howard steps off stage after she was presented with Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year Award during a roast, Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019, at Harvard University, in Cambridge, Mass.

Harvard is experiencing tradition, but what's also great is how these traditions are changing," said Elle Shaheen, a 19-year old sophomore from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, who took part in last year's audition protests and was cast this year. She played an evil prince Thursday.

Ashley LaLonde, a college

junior who played a satirical version of a Disney princess in Thursday's performance, said she was thankful for the opportunity, but also sad that so many generations of women missed out.

"This is the most professional opportunity available to Harvard students," said the 21-year-old New Yorker, who hopes to pursue a career in theater. "It's a real Broadway schedule. We get to spend time with celebrities. We have industry professionals who will come see these shows."

Annabel O'Hagan, 21-year-old senior Richmond, Virginia, said the troupe is better for opening acting roles to women.

Film details new research on evolution of whales, elephants

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)— Origin stories aren't just for comic-book superheroes, as a documentary about the evolution of animals including elephants and whales in-

tends to show. The two-hour film will highlight the work of leading scientists worldwide and showcase "spectacular new

breakthroughs in evolutionary history," PBS programming executive Bill Gardner said in a statement

Crocodiles and birds also are a focus of the special with the working title "When Whales Walked: A Deep Time Journey," which will include 3D graphics and special effects to recreate vanished creatures and environments.

PBS, which initiated the project, is working in partnership with the Smithsonian Channel and Smithsonian Institution. The latter will open a new fossil hall June 8, with an educational outreach program produced by the National Museum of Natural History.

wonders of the natural world, like an elephant's trunk or the size of a blue whale, we rarely ask, 'Where did that come from?' It turns out, scientists are finding some truly extraordinary answers," said Charles Poe, a production executive with the Smithsonian Channel.

An air date for the documen-"When we marvel at the tary has yet to be announced.

CHICAGO (AP)—"Empire" actor Jussie Smollett said Friday that he has been "consistent on every level" with the police during their investigation into what he says was a racist and homophobic attack on him in downtown Chicago

since he says two masked men attacked him early Tuesday in what police are investigating as a possible hate crime, the black and openly gay actor disputed assertions leveled on social media that he has been less than cooperative and changed his story.

ties and have been 100% factual and consistent on every level," he said in a statement released by an intermediary a day after his family put out a

similar statement. "Despite my frustrations and deep concern with certain inaccuracies and misrepresentations that have been spread, I still believe that justice will be served."

Smollett, 36, told police

that two masked men attacked him along a street in the Streeterville neighborhood as he was walking home from a restaurant. He said they punched

insults at him, poured an unknown chemical substance on him and wrapped a rope

That area of downtown Chicago has many hotels and restaurants and has wide-

coverage, and although police have found footage of Smollett making his way homeincluding video of him arriving at his building with a rope around his neck-they haven't found footage of the

attack or men fitting his description of his assailants.

In his statement, Smollett expressed gratitude for the "outpouring of love and support" he has received since the attack—even

president weighed in Thursday, calling it "horrible." But critics have also taken to social media to suggest that Smollett changed his account of what happened and hasn't cooperated fully with investigators, pointing to what police

say was Smollett's refusal to let detectives go through his phone records to verify that he on a call with his manager when he was attacked.

On Friday, the head of the police department, Superintendent genuine with us."

Even though detectives caught on video.

Parents of 2 Parkland victims want Pulitzer for local paper

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)— Two parents who lost daughters in last year's Parkland, Florida, school shooting are calling for their local newspaper to win the Pulitzer Prize, saying the South Florida Sun Sentinel has stayed on the story to demand accountability long after the national media left.

The parents, Ryan Petty and Andrew Pollack, wrote an open letter to judges who decide the Pulitzer that was posted on the website Real Clear Education in recent days.

"If it wasn't for them, everyone would have just moved on," said Pollack, whose daughter Meadow was among 17 people killed at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School last February. Petty's daughter Alaina was also killed.

The newspaper didn't know about the letter ahead of time, said Julie Anderson, editor-inchief of the Sun Sentinel who called it "very gratifying." She said the newspaper has entered the competition for journalism's top prize. The Pulitzers will be announced at Columbia University on April 15.

"The work by the Sun Sentinel's reporters remind us of what journalism can and should be, and also what is being tragically lost as local newspapers downsize," their letter said.

Petty and Pollack wrote that national news outlets focused almost exclusively on a handful of student activists who have fought for gun control legislation, turning the tragedy into another flashpoint in the culture wars.

Anderson arrived at the Sun Sentinel two weeks after the Parkland shooting happened. She came to the newspaper from Orlando, where she was working when 49 people were killed in the 2016 shooting at the city's Pulse nightclub. She gathered her staff in the wake of Parkland to tell them this was probably the biggest story ever in Broward County, and they needed to stick with it. They've done that, occasionally shifting resources around.

"It turned out to be a much harder story than we thought because there were so many roadblocks," she said.

Open the vaults: Unpublished Salinger work to be released

NEW YORK (AP)—One of the book world's greatest mysteries is finally ending: J.D. Salinger's son says previously unpublished work by his late father will be coming out.

In comments that appeared Friday in The Guardian, Matt Salinger confirmed longstanding reports that the author of "The Catcher in the Rye" had continued to write decades after he stopped publishing books. He said that he and Salinger's widow, Colleen, are "going as fast as we freaking can" to prepare the material for release.

"He wanted me to pull it together, and because of the scope of the job, he knew it would take a long time," Salinger said of his father, who died in 2010 and had not published work since the mid-1960s.

"This was somebody who was writing for 50 years without publishing, so that's a lot of material. So there's not a reluctance or a protectiveness: When it's ready, we're going to share it," he said.

Salinger, who helps oversee his father's literary estate, says any new work might be years away and did not cite any specific titles or plots. He did indicate that the Glass family made famous in such fiction as "Franny and Zooey" would be seen again.

"I feel the pressure to get this done, more than he did," he said, adding that the unseen work "will definitely disappoint people that he wouldn't care about, but for real readers . I think it will be tremendously well received by those people and they will be affected in the way every reader hopes to be affected when they open a book. Not changed, necessarily, but something rubs off that can lead to change."

Longtime Salinger publisher Little, Brown and Company had no comment Friday.

J.D. Salinger published just four books in his lifetime: "Nine Stories," "The Catcher in the Rye," "Franny and Zooey" and a volume with the two novellas "Raise High the Roof Beam, Carpenters and Seymour: An Introduction." The last work to come out in his lifetime was the story "Hapworth 16, 1924," which appeared in The New Yorker in 1965.

'Empire' actor says account of attack has been consistent

earlier this week. In his first public comments

him, hurled racist homophobic "I am working with authoriaround his neck.

spread surveillance video



Smollett

Eddie Johnson, said during an appearance on WLS-TV that even though detectives haven't found video of the attack, Smollett has been "very cooperative and we have no reason at this point to think he's not being

are still collecting and sifting through footage from the many public and private surveillance cameras near the site where Smollett said he was attacked, Johnson said it wouldn't be unusual that such an attack wouldn't be

Seinfeld sued over sale of Porsche alleged to be fake

NEW YORK (AP)—Jerry Seinfeld was sued Friday by a company claiming it bought the comedian's 1958 Porsche for \$1.5 million only to discover it was a fake.

Fica Frio Limited's lawsuit

was filed in Manhattan federal ting Coffee." court against a comic known for his love of vintage cars.

Seinfeld mixes his affec-

tion for fancy vehicles with his love of comedy in his series "Comedians in Cars Getauction house commission.

The lawsuit said Fica Frio's representatives paid \$1.54 million at a March 2016 auction in Amelia Island, Florida. The price included the 10 percent

The lawsuit, seeking unspecified damages including the costs associated with the purchase, said they learned the car was not authentic. Fica

Frio is based in the Channel Islands.

The auction summary of the Porsche boasted that it was "FROM THE JER-SEINFELD COLLECTION" and said it was a Seinfeld "stunning exam-

ple of a rare thoroughbred Porsche."



good faith.

fund. But it said the refund never came. Seinfeld's lawyer, Orin Snyder, said the

lawsuit,

comedian acted in

According to the

left a voicemail last

June apologizing and

promising a full re-

Seinfeld

"He has asked Fica Frio

for evidence to substantiate the allegations. Fica Frio ignored Jerry and instead filed this frivolous lawsuit," Snyder said in a statement.

Still, Snyder said, Seinfeld "is willing to do what's right and fair, and we are confident the court will support the need for an outside evaluator to examine the provenance of the car'

Bryan Cranston to star in New Orleans-set TV legal thriller

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)-Bryan Cranston will star in a new TV legal thriller set in New Orleans.

Showtime said Thursday that Cranston will play the lead role in "Your Cranston Honor," a limited

series from executive producers Robert and Michelle King of "The Good Wife" and "The Good Fight" and Peter Moffat

Cranston, who's also producing, plays a respected judge whose son is involved in a hit-

Rapper 6ix9ine

NEW YORK (AP)—Brook-

lyn rapper Tekashi 6ix9ine is

cooperating with federal pros-

ecutors after pleading guilty

to nine crimes and saying he

joined a violent New York

City gang and helped others

try to kill a rival gang member.

week by the 22-year-old rap-

per, whose legal name is Dan-

iel Hernandez. Information

about it was unsealed Friday

Known almost as much for

his tattooed, rainbow-haired

look as for his music, 6ix9ine

was a social media phenom-

enon before becoming an as-

He has 15.5 million fol-

cendant name in hip-hop.

in Manhattan federal court.

The plea was entered last

and-run accident. It becomes the catalyst for what Showtime called "a high-stakes game of lies, deceit and impossible choic-

> Production on the 10-episode series will begin later this

year in New Orleans, the cable channel said. A debut date for "Your Honor" was not announced.

Cranston, who starred in "Breaking Bad," is appearing on Broadway in "Network," an adaptation of the

'Jane the Virgin' creator sees tears, closure for show's end PASADENA, Calif. (AP)— The upcoming final season of "Jane the Virgin" is already drawing tears.

The CW show's creator, Jennie Snyder Urman, said she's crying in the editing room as she works on the concluding episodes of the show starring Gina Rodriguez.

The producer and actress grew emotional discussing the telenovela-style comedy-drama Thursday with TV critics. They were asked how they would look back on "Jane the Virgin."

"How much representation matters, what it feels like to be seen," Urman said of the show focused on a Latino family, a rarity on TV.

Rodriguez said the audience response affirmed her belief that young girls would be empowered seeing a Latina character. She's encouraged to increase her influence through directing and producing, she said.

"You changed my life," a tearful Rodriguez said to Urman.

"You changed mine," the producer replied.

nip, pleads guilty gang members

lowers on Instagram. His album Day69: Graduation Day was among the top-sellers on iTunes following its February release.

acknowledges

6ix9ine had a multiplatinum hit song, "Fefe," with Nicki Minaj, which peaked at No. 3 on the pop charts, and "Stoopid," featuring the incarcerated rapper Bobby Shmurda.

But he also seemed intent on ruining his prospects for runaway, entertainment world success. He publicly identified himself as a member of a street gang. He pleaded guilty in Brooklyn to disorderly conduct in connection with a May traffic stop. In 2015, he was sentenced to probation for appearing in a video in which a 13-year-old girl performed a sex act on another man.

During the plea, 6ix9ine said he joined the Nine Trey Blood Gang in fall 2017 and helped gang members try to kill a rival last March.

"I did this to maintain or increase my own standing in Nine Trey," he told Judge Paul A. Engelmayer. He said he also "knew that another member of Nine Trey had a gun and discharged that gun."

The rapper said he also helped other gang members rob people at gunpoint as part of a pledge by new gang members to commit at least two crimes.

Last June 2, he said, he "paid a person to shoot at a rival member of Nine Trey to scare him." That shooting, he added, occurred in Manhattan. 6ix9ine said he also was paid for participating in the sale of a kilogram of cocaine in 2017.

"I apologize to the court, to anyone who was hurt, to my family, friends and fans for what I have done and who I have let down," 6ix9ine said.

With his deal with prosecutors, 6ix9ine can gain leniency at sentencing from an otherwise mandatory minimum 47 years in prison if he admits to all crimes and testifies truthfully. Sentencing was set for Jan. 23, 2020.

As for the final episode, Urman said she's intent on providing "a real sense of closure." She said she's feeling pressure to say goodbye in the right way and wants to "stick the landing."

The fifth season of "Jane the Virgin," which begins March 27, has much to resolve. Last season closed with Jane, who's contemplating marriage to Rafael (Justin Baldoni), learning that her late husband Michael (Brett Dier) may have made a miraculous comeback.

The mystery of Michael's

apparent return will be explored in early episodes of season five, which will conclude this summer. The finale date has yet to be announced.

There may be a spinoff, a telenovela anthology series with Rodriguez and Urman serving as executive producers. CW has ordered a pilot for series consideration, with cast members yet to be announced. Rodriguez will be heard if not seen on it, narrating stories based on fictional novels written by her "Jane the Virgin" character.

Gladys Knight on why she'll sing the anthem at Super Bowl

ATLANTA (AP)-Gladys Knight says her singing the national anthem at the Super Bowl will bring people together.

NBC's "Today" show reported Friday that Knight wrestled with whether to join a boycott over the

NFL's treatment of Colin Kaepernick, the former quarterback who protested racial injustice by kneeling during the national anthem.

Kaepernick attorney Mark Geragos said the performers



Knight

are "crossing an intellectual picket line; they're saying to themselves, 'I care more about my career than whether what I'm doing is right."

Knight said she's been working for civil rights and singing the anthem since

she was a little girl.

Knight says everyone has an opinion, "but once we get into that love thing, it all comes together and goes wherever and we end up clapping and having a good time."

Daughter of an addict frowns on her husband's drinking

EAR ABBY: My mother-in-law was a drug addict for most of my wife's life. Because of this, my wife refuses to use any addictive substances, including alcohol. I enjoy having a beer or three occasionally. I never get drunk, just pleasantly tipsy. This happens maybe once a month.

Every time I drink, she gets very judgmental, as if I'm some sort of alcoholic. I have tried talking to her about it when I'm not drinking. She claims she doesn't care if I drink occasionally. Then as soon as I do, she rolls her eyes at me, sighs if I get a second one and asks me why I'm drinking. I'm puzzled about why she acts this way. Please help!

JUST A DRINK IN THE EAST

DEAR JUST A DRINK: She acts this way because she is the child of an addict, and seeing someone imbibe one—or three —drinks at one time makes her remember how her parent behaved while under the influence, which makes her uncomfortable. And frankly, I can't blame her. There are support groups for adult children of addicts that can be extremely helpful. I hope your wife looks into them for her benefit and for the benefit of your marriage.

DEAR ABBY: I'm on the verge of a divorce, about to start a trial separation. There was no cheating involved on my part or hers. There haven't been any money issues, either.

My soon-to-be ex-wife decided, after 11 years of marriage and no sex for the past two years, that she wants to be alone and has no feelings for me. I'm totally floored, and I'm not sure of what I'm asking other than your opinion of this. She has agreed to go to marriage counseling. Do you really throw away a marriage over this, and should I move out and hope she misses me and wants me back?

BROKENHEARTED DUDE

DEAR BROKENHEARTED: Do not move out and "hope" your wife wants you back. If you separate, you may decide that you don't want HER back. I'm pleased she's willing to go to counseling with you. It may create a path toward healing your marriage, if it is salvageable. It will also help you to understand what went wrong. (I suggest you start exploring the circumstances under which your sex life died.)

DEAR ABBY: I recently received a cash gift from my mother. We are not close and rarely communicate. Being her daughter, I assume she loves, and likes, me. I cannot claim to share those feelings

I am not in need of money. I have a decent income, but she doesn't know how much I earn. She likely needs the cash more than I do. Is there a way I can give it back to her without hurting her feelings? If not, how do I accept this gift that I do not want? GUILTY NEW YORKER

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR GUILTY: Not knowing your mother, I can't guess why she gave you this money or what her financial situation is. Because you are afraid you will make an already fragile relationship even more delicate if you return the money, the prudent thing to do would be to graciously thank her for it—perhaps in a written note. Because accepting her gift makes you feel guilty, consider putting the money aside just in case at some point she may need it in the future.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

22 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 04, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



AND CLOT THEWAY LOOK DNA TO GET CLEANED UP. SO THAT MEANS I'M STAYING HOME, RIGHT?



AND IF I'M STAYING HOME, THAT MEANS YOU'VE GOTTEN ME A BABY SITTER, RIGHT?



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®







Adam@home

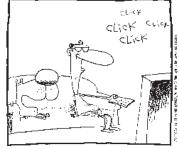
By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

By Jim Davis









By Eugene Sheffer **CROSSWORD**

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For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute, touch tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Oscar De La Hoya, 46; Gabrielle Anwar, 49; Clint Black, 57; Alice Cooper, 71.

Happy Birthday: Show how innovative you can be this year. Try something new; take a unique approach to handling both personal and professional responsibilities. A change will do you good and help you develop new skills. Nurture important relationships, and put more time and effort into mental and physical improvements. Evaluate your goals, interests and your concerns. Romance is highlighted. Your numbers are 7, 15, 24, 26, 32, 41, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Refuse to get bogged down with tedious details. Be open

to suggestions, but do what feels right. A physical change will turn out better than anticipated. Go somewhere you've never been, and it will encourage you to do something unique.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be careful what you wish for. Consider what's worked for you in the past and rearrange your day to ensure you don't fall behind. Dedication and loyalty will make a difference to the

outcome of an important deal. GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Pour everything you've got into getting ahead, pumping up your reputation and connecting with people who have something to contribute that will help you reach your goal. A change made to a contract or joint endeavor

appears to be beneficial.

King"

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let what others do influence you. Aim to stabilize your life, not disrupt it. Concentrate on the things and the people you enjoy most. Learn from mistakes, and keep what's important

direction. Love and romance will enhance your life and lead to new and exciting opportunities. A change at work will be to your benefit. •••

a routine that makes you feel at ease. Knowing what's expected of you and how best to use your skills and experience to come out on top will enable you to outmaneuver

network and keep busy doing the things you do best. Spend time with people who share your interests. A suggestion someone makes will help you bring about a positive financial change. A domestic matter needs to be han-

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll be care of your responsibilities and move on to the

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Trust will be difficult when dealing with someone using emotional blackmail. Don't believe

everything you hear. Look at every angle, and let your gut feeling lead you in the right direction. So-

to you moving along at a steady pace. ••• LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You need a

change. Consider what stimulates you mentally and physically and head in that

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Settle into

any competition you meet along the way. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Socialize,

dled delicately.

torn between what you should do and what you want to do. Get organized, take things you enjoy most. Don't ponder when you should be moving full speed ahead. ••

cializing will lead to a romantic encounter.

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't make a move because someone else does and prompts you to follow suit. Being a friendly observer will serve you well and offer

successful. Believe in yourself. 🗪 AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Check the online job market or consider offering your skills and services to organizations you'd like to work for. Someone you have collaborated with in the past will offer information that will encourage you to try some-

insight into the changes needed to ensure you are

thing new. OOO PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put more time and effort into the way you do things. Details will make the difference when you present what you have to offer. Someone who owes you a favor will offer good advice

and hands-on help if you ask. OOO Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, innovative and flexible. You are friendly and helpful.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level *

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

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Difficulty Level ****

2/04

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HOW TO PLAY; All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDELRWORD. THE COMMON BLACKBIRD Solution: 10 letter

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(1) Diesel Engine Mechanic At least 3 years experience in Overhauling Diesel Engine Contact Person: Leila Bais Contact Number: 235-2567

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Contact Number 783-0367

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) RFP19-CHCC/H.O.M.E VISITING-006

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 1, 2019 TIME: 09:00AM

"LEASED VEHICLE **H.O.M.E VISITING PROGRAM** COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED —UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

<u>/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA</u> CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

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Essential competencies

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- Must be 18 years old and above.
- High School graduate with at least two (2) years experience in customer service.
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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Pats have habit of Super Bowl trips, Rams newcomers

ATLANTA (AP)—Hey, have you guys been here before?

If you're a New England Patriot, the answer pretty much is "all the time."

If you play for the Rams, the reply basically is "never in my life."

So if experience is a factor in Sunday's Super Bowl, the overwhelming edge is with the 2½-point favorites from Foxborough who are 5-3 in NFL title games with Tom Brady at quarterback and Bill Belichick in the hoodie on the sideline.

The Rams, whose past two Super trips were representing St. Louis in 2000 and '02, have four players who have gotten this far. New England has four on its defensive line alone.

"Probably, throughout the week, it gives them an advantage," Rams tackle Andrew Whitworth says—and he's finishing up his 13th NFL season, though it's his first that ends in February.

"They kind of know this week. They know when things are a little anxious, when to kind of, 'Hey, turn it on and get ready to play.' They probably have a process and plan for the week.'

Athletes in every sport talk about how helpful a comfort zone can be. It's even more pronounced when it accompanies events such as the Super Bowl, which, for better or worse, transcends football.

Brady and most of his teammates, in their third straight visit, barely flinch at all the attention, media demands and alterations to the norm they encounter during Super Bowl week-although they were taken aback somewhat by the cacophony and circus atmosphere of opening night on Monday. Aside from Aqib Talib, C.J. Anderson, Brandin Cooks and Sam Shields, for the Rams this is uncharted territory.

Rams coach Sean McVay tends to dismiss that theory, however. Using quarterback Jared Goff as an example, Mc-Vay could have been speaking for his entire squad, which has made a sensational turnaround in his two seasons in charge.

"He's an unfazed quarterback," McVay says. "I think his way to have success and handle adversity the same demonstrates that poise and confidence you want from your quarterback."

Nowhere is the experience matchup more uneven than at QB. At 41, Brady already is the oldest quarterback to start a Super Bowl. Goff is 24 and one of the youngest.

Well, maybe nowhere is an exaggeration, because Belichick, at 66, could become the oldest coach to win a Super Bowl. He has worked 41 postseason games, with 30



Pictured right is Los Angeles Rams' Jared Goff throwing during the first half of the NFL football NFC championship game against the New Orleans Saints. At right, in this Dec. 2, 2018, file photo, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady gestures during an NFL football game against the Minnesota Vikings at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass.

victories, most among head coaches in NFL history. He's the only head coach with five Super Bowl rings.

McVay is half his age and in his first NFL title game, the youngest Super Bowl head man.

Rams president Kevin Demoff hears all of that socalled evidence, then cites so many positives about McVay that he sounds like the next dominant coach.

Sunday will be a powerful

acid test for McVay and his

Some other things to look for in Super Bowl 53:

Gronk's finale?

There's widespread speculation that Patriots star tight end Rob Gronkowski could be playing his final NFL game. The four-time All-Pro has been plagued by injuries for much of his career, and only in his first two pro seasons did he play a full 16-game schedule. In 2018, he made it into 13 games.

Gronkowski has battled

through back, knee, ankle and arm injuries throughout his nine pro seasons, and thought about retirement after last year's Super Bowl loss to the Eagles. If this will be it for the big-play

last things I'm thinking about," Gronkowski says. "I love playing the game. After a long season, after the (Super

Bowl), a few weeks down the road, you sit back, you relax, you get some downtime, enjoyment time. And you

"As of right now, those are the

just see where you want to go with it."

"That's a tricky question. You're trying to get around me. You're just trying to get vou some answers over there, baby. But like I said, I don't know."

Donald's dominance

Rams defensive tackle Aaron Donald led the NFL with 201/2

Considering that Brady barely has been touched or pressured in two playoff games —both against teams with strong pass rushers—it is incumbent upon Donald to be a factor Sunday.

Make that a major factor.

"We'll get to him, but we have to stay patient and don't get frustrated," Donald says. "We've got a great secondary that will do its job and make sure he doesn't have easy throws. If he has to hold onto the ball, we'll have our chances. We just have to go get him."

Otherwise, the most accomplished quarterback in Super Bowl history might tear them apart.

Donald wasn't able to attend NFL Honors because he and the Rams will be playing

Darius Leonard, a secondround pick, led the NFL with Mahomes won his first award to win. The next award Luck missed all last season 163 tackles and established himself as the star of the Colts defense in his first season. Leonard also had seven sacks and two interceptions, as he instantly became one of the NFL's best playmakers. Leonard was an All-Pro pick. He beat out Chargers safety Derwin James, who also was a first-team All-Pro as a rookie.

> "I honestly thought I'd have to take a backseat role, take a year or two to get my feet wet," Leonard said. "I

> "Being on the field, trying to do your best, it was freeing, liberating.

> Meanwhile, Aaron Donald winning defensive player of the year was one of the easiest picks of the night. Donald set a record for a defensive tackle with 20.5 sacks this season. He has established himself as the best non-quarterback in the NFL and he has won defensive player of the year two seasons in a row.

in Super Bowl LIII on Sunday.

definitely surprised myself."

Close ones

The Rams' past two trips to the big game were tight affairs in which they beat Tennessee and lost to New England. In all of the Patriots' eight previous trips in the Brady-Belichick era, the result was in doubt until the final moments.

So to expect a romp at Mercedes-Benz Stadium seems foolhardy.

"It would be nice to get one of those," Patriots receiver Chris Hogan. "But the idea is to win, no matter how you do it."

The largest margin in a Patriots Super Bowl under this regime has been the eight points the Eagles beat them by a year ago.

Mahomes takes MVP award



few months ago, nobody knew what to expect from Kansas

City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes.

Mahomes had clear physical talent; that's why he was a 2017 first-round pick out of Texas Tech. But he started only one game, the season finale, as a rookie. An up-and-down first season starting would have been understandable.

Instead, Mahomes became the best player in the NFL.

er of the year as the league handed out its annual awards at the NFL Honors ceremony on Saturday evening.

"It's a lot of credit to the people around me," Mahomes said backstage after getting the award. "It truly is an honor."

Mahomes threw for 5,097 yards and 50 touchdowns in his first season as an NFL starter, taking the Chiefs to the No. 1 seed in the AFC. He was dominant from Week 1 on and an easy choice for

ATLANTA—A MVP and offensive player of the year. He's the first Chief to win the AP's MVP award. Mahomes is the first Chiefs player to win offensive player of the year since running back Priest Holmes in 2002.

Mahomes beat out Saints quarterback Drew Brees for MVP. Mahomes got 41 firstplace votes with Brees getting the other nine, according to David Ely of NFL.com.

"It's awesome," Mahomes said. "I got put in a great situation.

"It is an honor, it's a hard MVP and also offensive play- I hope I can get is a Super after shoulder surgery, but re-Bowl."

Nagy wins Coach of the Year title

Matt Nagy led the Bears to a surprise NFC North championship, and won coach of the year in his first season as a head coach. Last season he was offensive coordinator of the Chiefs with Andy Reid, and the Bears made a great hire. Nagy's offensive creativity was on display all season, and the Bears defense

was dominant on their way to a 12-4 season. The Bears lost in their first playoff game, but it was still a big growth season for the franchise.

tight end with superb blocking

skills, he isn't letting on.

"We didn't reach the pinnacle, but that's going to motivate us when we get together this spring and summer," Nagy said.

Nagy said he cut short a vacation with his wife to St. Lucia to attend the NFL Honors show.

Luck Comeback Player of the Year

turned in a big way. He threw for 4,593 yards and 39 touchdowns, leading the Colts to an AFC wild-card berth. There were plenty of questions about Luck's ability to come back and play at his previous level during a long rehab after surgery on his labrum, but he immediately re-established himself as one of the top quarterbacks in the NFL.

"Certainly this was a rewarding and fulfilling season in many ways," Luck said.

Warriors cruise past Lebron-less Lakers

(AP)—Klay Thompson returned from a one-game absence with an illness to score 28 points and light up the Lak-

ers for the second time in 13 days, leading the Golden State Warriors to a 115-101 victory Saturday night over a Los Angeles team again missing LeBron James.

Splash Brother Stephen Curry missed his first eight shots before a layup with 6:20 remaining and still wound up with 14 points, two days after going off for 41 in a loss to the 76ers when he hit 10 3-pointers. Andre Iguodala hit a go-ahead 3 in the final minute of the third, and two more early in the fourth as Golden State pulled away and finished with 17 points. DeMarcus Cousins had 18 points and 10 rebounds in his second home game and seventh in all since coming back from a nearly yearlong recovery from surgery for a ruptured left Achilles tendon. Kevin Durant added 21 points and 11 of the Warriors' 31 assists.

The Lakers hung tough without James just as they did here in a 127-101 victory Christmas night. They lost James in the third quarter of that game to a strained left groin. He returned from a 17game absence Thursday night against the Clippers only to sit again Saturday.

James' rest was for what coach Luke Walton called "load management." The four-time MVP had been set for his second game back but woke up Friday "very sore" after playing 40 minutes in the 123-120 overtime win against the Clippers. He finished with 24 points, 14

Three NBA team executives told USA TODAY Sports they are operating under the premise that the Los Angeles Lakers are Anthony Davis' preferred destination and that any other team that acquires him from New Orleans will be getting a short-term rental until Davis can become a free agent in 2020.

The people requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about Davis while he is under contract with the Pelicans.

While this comes as no surprise, it confirms Davis' wishes — which previously had been inferred via social media posts and offhanded comments.

Earlier last week week, Davis' agent, Rich Paul of Klutch Sports Group, told ESPN that his client will not sign an extension with the Pelicans and

OAKLAND, Calif. rebounds and nine assists.

Spurs 113. Pelicans 108

In San Antonio, LaMarcus Aldridge had 25 points and 14 rebounds and San Antonio withstood another bat intrusionwith a nifty play from the team's coyote mascot—and held off the depleted New Orleans.

The bat began hovering above the court three minutes into the game, causing officials to delay play. It was the second straight home game delayed by the winged intruders, with three bats buzzing the court Thursday night against Phoenix. Arena workers were able to shoo the bats into the rafters against the Suns, but the Spurs were better prepared against the Pelicans.

Bucks 131, Wizards 115

In Washington, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 37 points, making all of his season-high 17 free throws in a perfect night at the line for Milwaukee, and had 10 rebounds to help the NBA-leading Bucks rout Washington.

Two games ahead of Toronto for the Eastern Conference lead, the Bucks have won three straight, nine of 10 and 20 of 24.

Brook Lopez added 21 points, and Khris Middleton had 20. Starting point guard Eric Bledsoe sat out to rest a sore left Achilles.

Mavericks 111, **Cavaliers 98**

In Cleveland, rookie Luka Doncic matched his season high with 35 points and did a little bit of everything for Dallas, and Harrison Barnes scored 13 points in the fourth quarter to lead the undermanned Mavericks Cleveland.

With a contingent of fans waving Slovenian flags to support Doncic, the 19-yearold showed why the Mavericks are so excited about their future. He added 11 rebounds, six assists and made a couple long 3-pointers that drew gasps from the Quicken Loans crowd.

Barnes finished with 17 points. The Mavericks played their second game since acquiring star Kristaps Porzingis from New York in a blockbuster trade.

Clippers 111, Pistons 101

In Detroit, Lou Williams scored 16 Los Angeles points in a row during a torrid fourthquarter stretch, and the Clippers overcame a 25-point deficit to beat Detroit.

The Clippers trailed by

Golden State Warriors' De-Marcus Cousins, top, scores over Los Angeles Lakers' Kyle Kuzma in the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019, in Oakland, Calif. 25 in the second quarter and were down 83-60 in the third before storming back to tie it 89 in the fourth. It was 91-all before Williams scored every Los Angeles point during a decisive run that put the Clippers up 107-96. Williams finished with 39 points. Detroit's Blake Griffin

had 24 points and 11 rebounds.

Pacers 95, Heat 88

In Miami, Bojan Bogdanovic scored 31 points, Darren Collison added 20 and Indiana had a big third quarter to beat stumbling Miami.

Indiana ended a seasonlong four-game losing streak, which started in the game immediately following the one where All-Star Victor Oladipo left with a season-ending knee

Hornets 125, Bulls 118

In Charlotte, Kemba Walker had 15 of his 37 points in the fourth quarter and the Charlotte Hornets pulled away to beat Chicago for its fifth straight victory.

Walker had 10 assists and finished 5 of 6 from the field in the fourth quarter, sparking an 18-4 run to hand the Bulls their fifth loss in six games.

Magic 102, Nets 89

In Orlando, Nikola Vucevic had 24 points and 12 rebounds, Evan Fournier added 16 points and Orlando beat Brooklyn.

D'Angelo Russell had 23 points for Brooklyn, and Shabazz Napier added 15.

Column: Davis may prefer Lakers, but don't count Celtics out

that Davis wants a trade.

The NBA on Tuesday fined Davis \$50,000 for "violating a collectively-bargained rule prohibiting players or their representatives from making public trade demands."

Paul declined comment when reached by phone.

The Lakers would love to put Davis alongside LeBron James, who also is represented by Paul, and they have the assets (young, promising players) and draft picks (their own future first-rounders) to make an attractive offer.

ESPN reported that the Pelicans have answered calls from the Lakers but that Pelicans owner Gayle Benson, who also owns the Saints, has a small-market chip on her shoulder and is reluctant to send Davis to the big-market, deep-pocketed Lakers.

The plot thickens, and the stakes increase each day, leaving the Pelicans to navigate an unwelcome but not unexpected scenario. The Pelicans in a statement said they will "do this on our terms and our timeline—one that makes the will not be dictated by those outside of our organization."

Bright lines have been drawn.

If Davis is indeed determined to get to the Lakers at all costs even if that means playing for another team next season-it decreases his trade value with other teams. Why would a team give up significant assets if it knows Davis is headed to the Lakers at some point?

Perhaps a team that is close to winning a championship

might take the gamble. Maybe a team will take a chance like Oklahoma City did when it acquired Paul George and Toronto did when it acquired Kawhi Leonard—and convince Davis there is another team for him.

der, and we will see what Leonard does this summer when he is a free agent. But those are risky moves, ones that most franchises are unwilling to make.

Boston is mentioned as a possible destination, but complications and issues make that tricky. The Celtics can't trade for Davis now because a team can only acquire one player via trade on a "Derrick Rose Rule" contract extension. That rule allows teams

to pay a player coming off his rookie deal a larger percentage of the salary cap, and Celtics guard Kyrie Irving was signed under the rule and was acquired via trade.

The Celtics can't trade for Davis now (unless they deal George ended up signing a Irving first) and will have to long-term deal with the Thun- wait until July 1 when Irving's contract is up to get in on the Davis sweepstakes. The Celtics also have the players and future draft picks to make New Orleans an attractive offer.

However, there is growing concern-mentioned by opposing executives—that Irving may not re-sign with the Celtics even though he said in the preseason he plans to be back in Boston. Irving is frustrated with younger players on the team— he apologized for calling them

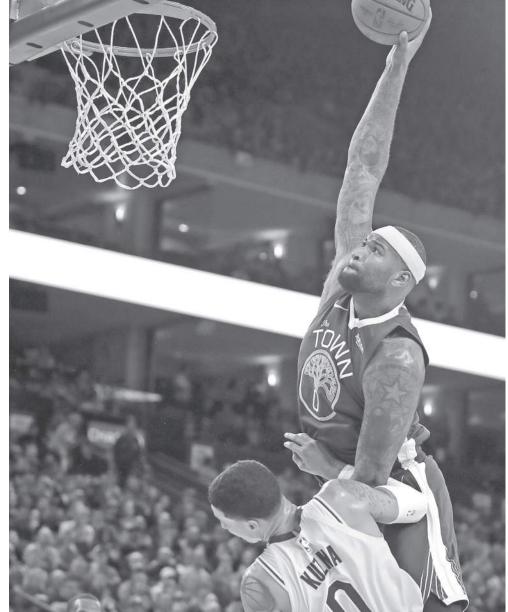
out after a recent game—and he acknowledged he called LeBron to apologize for not understanding his leadership early in their Cleveland days.

There might also be hesitancy on Boston's end to give Irving a max contract given his knee injury history. Irving got in front of the story by saying he wants to be back. If he and the Celtics can't agree on terms, he can pin blame of Boston, which has not lived up to expectations this season.

Celtics president Danny Ainge told WBZ-FM radio station that he is optimistic Irving will return.

It's a fascinating maze of plots and subplots.

And it pits two of the league's flagship franchises in another compelling showdown with small-market New Orleans trying to figure out what to do.



Padres may prefer Harper over Machado



EGO—The Padres

relative newcomers to the ongoing Bryce Harper/Manny Machado free agent saga, but they've already started to make things interesting.

On Saturday, two days after their reported meeting with Harper in Las Vegas, they let slip to Fancred's Jon Heyman that they might be leaning toward offering the 26-year-old outfielder a contract rather than continuing their pursuit of shortstop/third baseman Machado.

On one hand, Heyman revealed, the Padres' ownership recognizes that they have a "business/marketing opportunity" with Harper, something that may prove even more valuable than the .249/.393/.496 batting line and 3.5 fWAR he already brings to the table. That's certainly the kind of attitude that's expected from any team weighing the pros and cons of a long-term, \$400+ million contract offer, even if, as Craig noted on Thursday, it would take some roster reshuffling to fit Harper into San Diego's current outfield configuration. For what it's worth, the Padres' brass was said to be "extremely prepared" and "seemed sincere about wooing [Harper]" during their meeting on Thursday, though it doesn't appear that any kind of deal is imminent.

As for Machado, Heyman suggests that the All-Star infielder may not be receptive to playing for a West Coast team at all. If that's the case, it makes sense for the Padres to start umping up their interest in Harper, regardless of which player they actually have a preference for. According to a recent report in the San Di-



Washington Nationals Bryce Harper (34) follows the ball as he hits his 100th RBI during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins in Washington, Monday, Sept. 24, 2018.

ego Union-Tribune, the club also might find it difficult to entice Machado to play in San Diego as they intend to move him back to the hot corner in 2019, should the two sides strike a deal in the weeks to come. While Machado is reportedly open to playing third base again, his preferred position is shortstop—which may or may not factor into any career-based decisions he makes this winter.

All that said, the Padres still look like a long shot to land either free agent, especially taking some of their more spendthrift competitors into account. It's of some consolation that Opening Day is just seven weeks out. We should have some answers soon.

Meanwhile, free agent right-hander Jason Hammel and infielder Matt Davidson have agreed to minor league deals with the Texas Rangers.

The 36-year-old Hammel joined the Rangers on Friday, three months after the Kansas City Royals declined a \$12 million mutual option and instead paid a \$2 million buyout.

Hammel was 4-14 with a 6.02 ERA in 18 starts and 21 relief appearances for the Royals. He was dropped from the rotation in early July after dropped six starts in a row, and

set a career high for losses.

Hammel is 96-114 with a 4.62 ERA while starting 298 of his 377 games over 13 big league seasons for six teams. He was 15-10 in 2016 for the World Series champion Chicago Cubs, but went 12-27 the past two years with the Royals.

Davidson batted .228 with 20 home runs and 62 RBIs for the Chicago White Sox. He hit three homers on opening day at Kansas City.

The 27-year-old Davidson hit 26 home runs in 2017. He has split his time between third base, first base and designated hitter.

Davidson also pitched three

times for the White Sox last season, throwing three scoreless innings.

If Hammel is added to the 40man roster by the Rangers, he would get a one-year contract with a \$1.5 million salary in the major leagues and the chance to earn performance bonuses.

In other development, Oakland Athletics closer Blake Treinen will receive a \$6.4 million salary for 2019 after winning his arbitration case.

Treinen's case was heard Friday. He asked arbitrators Steven Wolf, Allen Ponak and Phillip LaPorte for a raise from \$2.2 million to \$6.4 million, while Oakland offered \$5.6 million. The pitcher's agent, Matt Sosnick, confirmed the deal Saturday in a text message.

"A historic season capped off with another win for one of the best pitchers and best people in the game!!" the agency posted on Twitter.

Treinen was a first-time All-Star last year, going 9-2 with a 0.78 ERA and 38 saves in 43 chances over 68 relief appearances. The right-hander struck out 100 and walked 21 in 80 1/3 innings, helping the A's return to the playoffs for the first time in four years. Oakland lost the AL wild-card game to the Yankees.



SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Rickie Fowler had the lead heading into the final round last

year at the Phoenix Open, only to see the title slip through his grip for a second time.

He will have a big cushion in his third bid to win the championship following a stellar display of golf.

Fowler had eight birdies in a 7-under 64 on Saturday at TPC Scottsdale to take a fourshot lead over Matt Kuchar into the final round.

Fowler opened with four birdies in six holes and navigated a difficult two-putt on the par-4 18th hole to reach 20-under 193.

Now it's time to finish it off. "This one is definitely high on the list, another being Torrey Pines," Fowler said. "I would say between here and there, those would be the two highest on the list other

Fowler shoots 64 for 4-shot lead at Phoenix Open than a major."

Kuchar shot a bogey-free 65 to put himself in position for his third victory of the wraparound PGA season. He has been par or better in all 19 rounds this season, winning the Mayakoba Classic and Sony Open.

Justin Thomas, who started one behind Fowler, shot 65 and was five back of his friend and desert roommate.

Branden Grace and Byeong Hun An were at 13 under on a day golf said goodbye to one of its most distinctive voices.

Saturday's third round was the broadcasting finale of NBC lead golf analyst Johnny Miller's career.

Miller followed a Hall of Fame playing career with three decades of calling it the way he saw it, regardless of what the players thought of him. Wanting to spend more time

with his family, the 71-yearold Miller decided to call it quits after the Phoenix Open, where he won twice to help earn the nickname "Desert Fox.'

NBC played multiple tributes to Miller during Saturday's coverage and on-course announcer Roger Maltbie's voice cracked as he talked about his friend.

"I appreciate the people out there. I do my commentating for you," Miller said. "I'm glad you accepted my form of commentating, which was not normal. It was a little rough at first, but it's just been a pleasure, the friendships I've made.'

Fowler had the 54-hole lead at last year and fell flat in the final round, shooting 73 to finish six shots behind champion Gary Woodland. He also lost in a playoff in 2016.

Fowler put himself in position for a third run at the title with a superb round of golf.

He had a one-shot lead over Thomas after closing with four birdies for a 6-under 65 in Friday's second round. Fowler made an eight-foot birdie putt on 18 to reach 13 under and quickly added to it on Saturday, dropping in an 18-foot birdie putt on the par-4 first hole.

Fowler, who shot 64 in the opening round, added birdies on Nos. 3, 5 and 6 to reach 17 under, but had a par putt lip out after he hit into the greenside bunker at the par-3 seventh. He hit his approach to two feet for birdie at No. 9, turning in 4-under 31, and followed a birdie at the difficult 11th with a two-putt birdie on No. 13.

Fowler reached 20 under with a birdie on the short par-4

17th for a nice cushion heading into what's expected to be a rainy final round.

PGA Tour rescinds McCarthy's penalty from new rule

In Arizona, PGA Tour players and caddies have spent the first part of the season sorting out golf's new rules.

The confusion continued at the Phoenix Open.

Among the new rules, caddies are no longer allowed to stand behind players as they line up shots not on the green. In Friday's second round, Denny McCarthy was initially assessed a two-shot penalty after his caddie briefly stood behind him to discuss a shot at No. 15. McCarthy did not address the ball and backed off to line up his shot after his caddie stepped away.

The PGA Tour, with support of the USGA, reversed the penalty Saturday follow-

ing a review of the interaction, changing McCarthy's 67 to a 65. He was 8 under after a third-round 71.

"If he was in there deliberately looking at where I'm lining up and I'm setting up to the ball and not backing away, yeah, I could see how that's a two-shot penalty," McCarthy said. "But in no way, shape or form did I think what I did was a penalty.

A similar situation with Justin Thomas and his caddie in the second round also was deemed not to be a penalty. The USGA said in a statement the rule will be enforced similarly going forward.

"We saw the video many, many times and we just felt like we needed to look at it a little more with the interpretation," PGA Tour rules official Slugger White said. "It's a new rule. We agree with the rule, it's just the interpretation is a little difficult now."

Kang slips past Kwon in title game

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Daniel Kang labored his way to a title win in boys singles

event in the Saipan International School Student Council Tennis Tournament, as he needed three sets to beat David Kwon in their championship game last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

The top-ranked Kang defeated Kwon in the opening set, 4-2, but failed to finish off his foe, as the former eked out a 4-3 triumph in the second. Then after the heartbreaker in the second set, the former member of the CNMI National Junior Team was back to his dominant self, crushing Kwon, 5-1, to rule the eightplayer field.

Kang's three-set victory over Kwon came after the



From Page 28

ing volleyball championships in CCOPSA history. We will give our best and let God do the rest."

Meanwhile, the girls division finals will be played first at 3:30pm, also at the Ada Gymnasium.



From Page 28

mer clocking in at 45:39.1 and the latter submitting 45:57.9. In the women's division, Emily Northrop (46:05), Heather Taylor (46:51.2), and Sarah Vander Wal (47:52.0) made it to the podium. The aquathlon featured two 2.5K run races from Kilili Beach and back with a turnaround point across the former Saipan Mayor's Office in Beach Road and a 1K swim at Kilili Beach

In the 10K race held simultaneously with the aquathlon, Kaylee Heath (41:02.8) secured the first place overall by using a "negative split" strategy, which means that she planned on finishing the second half of the race with a faster time than the first. The 10K course had runners turning around at the Chamolinian Utt in Garapan to head back to the start/finish line.

"I don't have a pacing watch, so my strategy was just to try to run negative splits, which means that I wanted to go out a little bit slower than heading back. I was able to do that, and I did that based on how I was feeling," Heath said.

The 26-year old Heath moved to Saipan from Wash-



ington with her husband and two kids two and a half months ago, which was right after Typhoon Yutu ransacked the island. Because of the typhoon's damaging effects and the demanding schedule of raising two children, she has not been able to train or compete in races as often as she used to. Despite these hurdles, Heath was still able to enjoy the thrill of the event and outperformed her rivals.

"It felt super fun. I haven't raced in a while because I have two kids. Since I've had them, I've been really off and on with being able to race, but I'm finally starting to find my groove a little bit," Heath said. "It was super fun."

Joining Heath in the Top 3 in the women's division were Ayano Braxton (48:10.0) and Sakiko Eda (49:07.0). In the men's category, Kosuke Sato (41:58.8), Ronald Villafria (44:32.1), and Jay Zhang (45:43.4) were ranked 1-2-3.

Last weekend's race was organized by the Triathlon Association of the CNMI and although TRAC was anticipating to host just 50 participants, 72 competitors showed up on race day

"I feel elated for having exceeded expectations," TRAC president Ricky Castro said.

"It shows that there is a strong support for multisport [competition] in this small community. We saw a batch of firsttimers in triathlon and repeat participants as well."

The 4th IT&E Saipan Aquathlon & 10K Pathway Run was one of the pre-races for the 2019 Tagaman Triathlon, which will be taking place on Mar. 30. This year's Tagaman Triathlon is particularly eventful, as it marks the 30th anniversary of the iconic race.

"The race series will help the competitors get familiarized with the swim, bike, and run courses," Castro said, adding that the series will help the athletes get first-hand experience with triathlon's transitions.

Both Aleksenko and Heath will be competing in next month's Tagaman.

"My next race is the Tagaman Triathlon. I'm feeling good and nervous at the same time," Aleksenko said.

"There's a big triathlon at the end of March. I'm on a team, and I'm doing the 10K running part of that," Heath said.

Meanwhile, last Saturday's event was sponsored by Kanoa Resort, which is also the host hotel for this year's Tagaman, IT&E, Powerade, and Let's Go Tours.

Daniel Kang hits the ball near the neat during his first round game against Daniel Nam in the boys U14 singles event in the Saipan International School Student Council Tennis Tournament at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

former took only two sets to down Jun Wang in the semifinals, 4-3, 4-3. Kwon, on the other hand, marched into the championship round after outclassing Anthony Gregoire in their semis duel, 4-1. 0-4, 5-0. Gregoire joined Kang and Kwon in the Top 3 after routing Wang in the battle for third place, 6-1, while Andrew Chung also won another consolation game and finished fifth in the division following a 6-2 victory against Daniel Nam. Danny Lee and Dylan Mister were the other competitors in the boys U14 singles.

In the girls U14 division, Serin Chung topped the round-robin contest after earning a 2-0 record. She secured the title after slipping past Helen Kim last Saturday, 4-3, 3-4, 5-0. Serin's other victory was against her sister Irin, 4-1, 4-0, while Kim also defeated the latter, 4-1, 4-2, to settle for the runner-up honors.

Joining Serin and Kang on the champions list of the singles events were Tony Kim, Irin Chung, and Juncheol Hwang.

Hwang clinched the boys U12 singles crown following a 4-1, 4-0 triumph over June Yu yesterday. Hwang also topped Dong Hyun Lee in straight sets in their semis game last Saturday, 4-0, 4-1, to notch the first finals berth. Yu, on the other hand, went the distance

against Andy Lee, 3-4, 4-1, 5-2, to march into the finals. Dong Hyun Lee edged Andy Lee in the consolation match yesterday, 6-4, to complete the Top 3 in the division.

Despite losing in the finals of the girls U14 singles, Irin did not go home empty handed, as she took with her the tournament's U12 singles title. Irin rallied past Savita Sikkel in the finals, 1-4, 4-3, 5-3. Anna Kwon joined Irin and Sikkel in the podium after outlasting Dana Lee in the third place match, 7-6 (5-2).

In the boys U18 singles finals, Kim eked out a 4-1, 4-5 (3-4), 5-2 win over Sam Ryu. Kim and Ryu arranged their championship showdown after sweeping Kang, 4-2, 4-1, and Andy Kim, 4-2, 4-1, respectively, in the pair of semis matches. Kim ended up at third place after nosing out Kang, 6-4.

Blake, Santos to vie for slot on 3x3 team

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Dean Blake and Coby Santos will be vying for a spot on the CNMI Men's National Basketball Team (3x3) that may compete in the 2019 Pacific diem, and accommoda-Games in Samoa.

One of them will fill the void left by Preston Basa, who will not be able to suit up for the national squad due to an injury.

"With Preston injured, I've invited two other national players to try out for the remaining slot left void by Preston's injury. Dean and Coby are both familiar with 3x3, having played in youth 3x3 tournament held in Singapore last September," Mariana Islands Basketball Federation official and national head coach Elias Rangamar said.

Incidentally, Santos and Blake played for Mix Breed, which ruled the men's open division of an MIBF-sanctioned tournament late last month. They defeated Jack Lizama, Douglas Schmidt, Dan Andro Barcinas, who are the three other members of the team that may go to Apia this summer to play in the quadrennial event.

"The men's national will be represented by the standing national team from the last Mini Games (2017 in Vanuatu), namely, Jack, Douglas, Dan, and the replacement of Preston," Rangamar said.

"We will be sending both men's and women's teams to Samoa, but with reservations. If by April we feel that

we're not going to meet our financial obligations to the Games, then we'll pull out," the MIBF official said.

Each delegate to the Pacific Games will need around \$3,000 to cover the airfare, per XVIPACIFICGAMES tion costs in Samoa.

> Northern Marianas Sports Federation will provide financial aid to each delegate, but has yet to decide on the amount. Each team has to arrange their own trip

to Samoa, while participants could withdraw from the competition without being slapped with a fine.

Meanwhile, there is also one slot left on the women's squad, as former member Taz Deleon Guerrero could not play due to a family commitment. Alliyah Fernandez, Desrei Camacho, and Analei Santos are invited to try out for the remaining spot with the winner forming the quartet with Eleina Santos, Liamwar Rangamar, and Jan Travilla.



Coby Santos, center, loses the ball after drawing a foul on Ivan Devero, left, during their semis game in a 3x3 basketball tournament late last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Saipan Tribune SDOTTS

Warriors cruise past Lebronless Lakers

PAGE 25



28 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

GCA vs SIS in double-header finale

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN pamintuanroby@gmail.com CORRESPONDENT

race Christian Academy and Saipan International School arranged their duel for a pair of championship trophies after dispatching their respective foes in the semifinals of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League last Friday.

In the boys division, the top-Eagles overpowered the

fourth-seeded Mt. Carmel School in two sets at the GCA court in Navy Hill, 25-13, 25-16, to secure a finals berth. In the other semis game at the SIS court in As Lito, the hosts Geckos also took only two sets to smother Agape Christian School, 25-18, 25-16.

In the girls division, the Lady Eagles soared above the Lady Torchbearers in just two sets, 25-8, 25-10, to advance to the finals, while the Lady Geckos also marched to the finale after surviving MCS' varsity team in three sets, 16-25, 25-16, 15-8.

GCA capped its dominance of Mt. Carmel in the boys semis game with a bang when William Kim set up Kevin Song for the game-winning spike. Kim and Jason Wang alternated setting duties for the Eagles, with Seung Jun Baek and Joshua Pajarillaga also fed the trio of Song, Steven Balakrishna, and Sam Ryu. The Eagles' bench depth, their starters' versatility, and strong



frontline hitters made it easier for them to crush their foes not only in

last Friday's semis game, but in the majority of the regular

"It is truly a blessing when you have a couple of players giving their best with spiking. They really boost the morale of the whole team and inspire other players to do their part on the defensive end," Eagles coach Cesar Libut said. "Having multiple setters also allows us to create different offensive plays."

Before wrapping up the match, Ryu and Song put on a show from the server's area in the opening and closing stages of the first set to give GCA the upper hand. Ryu bagged six consecutive overhanders to lift the Eagles to an early 7-0 advantage, while Song, with GCA ahead, 21-13, closed out the set by firing four consecutive serves.

The Eagles will meet the Geckos in the one-game finals this Wednesday at 4:30pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and it will be an interesting



court in Navy Hill.

match, as the former absorbed their lone loss in the regular season against SIS.

Carmel School in the semifi-

nals of the CCOPSA volleyball

league last Friday at the GCA

"We know that SIS is a very strong team with an excellent coach. They are taller and have strong spikers, too," Libut said. "I'm sure that it will be one of the most excit-

See GCA on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School players pose for a photo after beating Agape Christian School in their semis game in the CCOPSA volleyball league last Friday at the SIS court in As Lito.



By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN pamintuanroby@gmail.com CORRESPONDENT

Isaiah Aleksenko and Kaylee Heath gained top honors in the 4th IT&E Saipan Aguathlon and 10K Pathway Run last Saturday.

Aleksenko braved the waves in the waters off Kilili Beach and kept a steady pace in the run race along Beach Road to finish ahead of the field with a time of 44:28.7. Right after crossing the finish line at Kilili Beach, the 13-year-old member of Swimming Center Tsunami

Saipan was visibly delighted. "It felt good, really good," Aleksenko," he said. "Before the race, I stretched,

warmed up, and tried my best to get motivated."

Jinnosuke Suzuki and Carlo Canepa rounded out the Top 3 in the male with the for-

See ALEKSENKO on Page 26

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN Isaiah Aleksenko heads to the swim-run transition area at Kilili Beach during last Saturday's 4th IT&E Saipan Aquathlon and 10K Pathway Run.





CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triathlon Association of the CNMI officers pose for a photo with staff members and officials of Kanoa Resort, the official host hotel of the 2019 Tagaman Triathlon.